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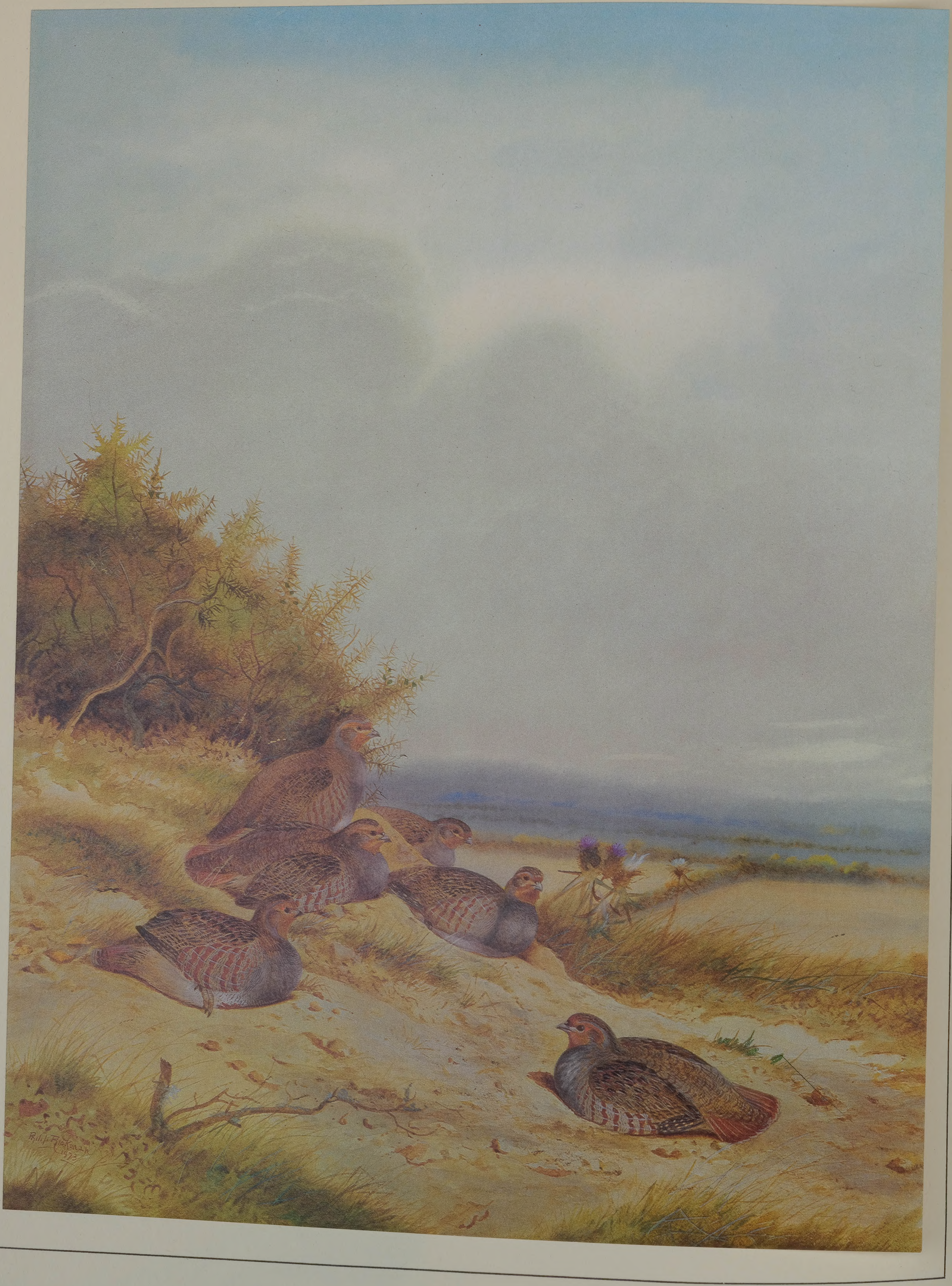
A SELECTION OF BIRD PAINTINGS AND SKETCHES


Philip Rickman 1973

A SELECTION OF BIRD PAINTINGS AND SKETCHES

WRITTEN *and* ILLUSTRATED *by*
PHILIP RICKMAN

Foreword by
HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT

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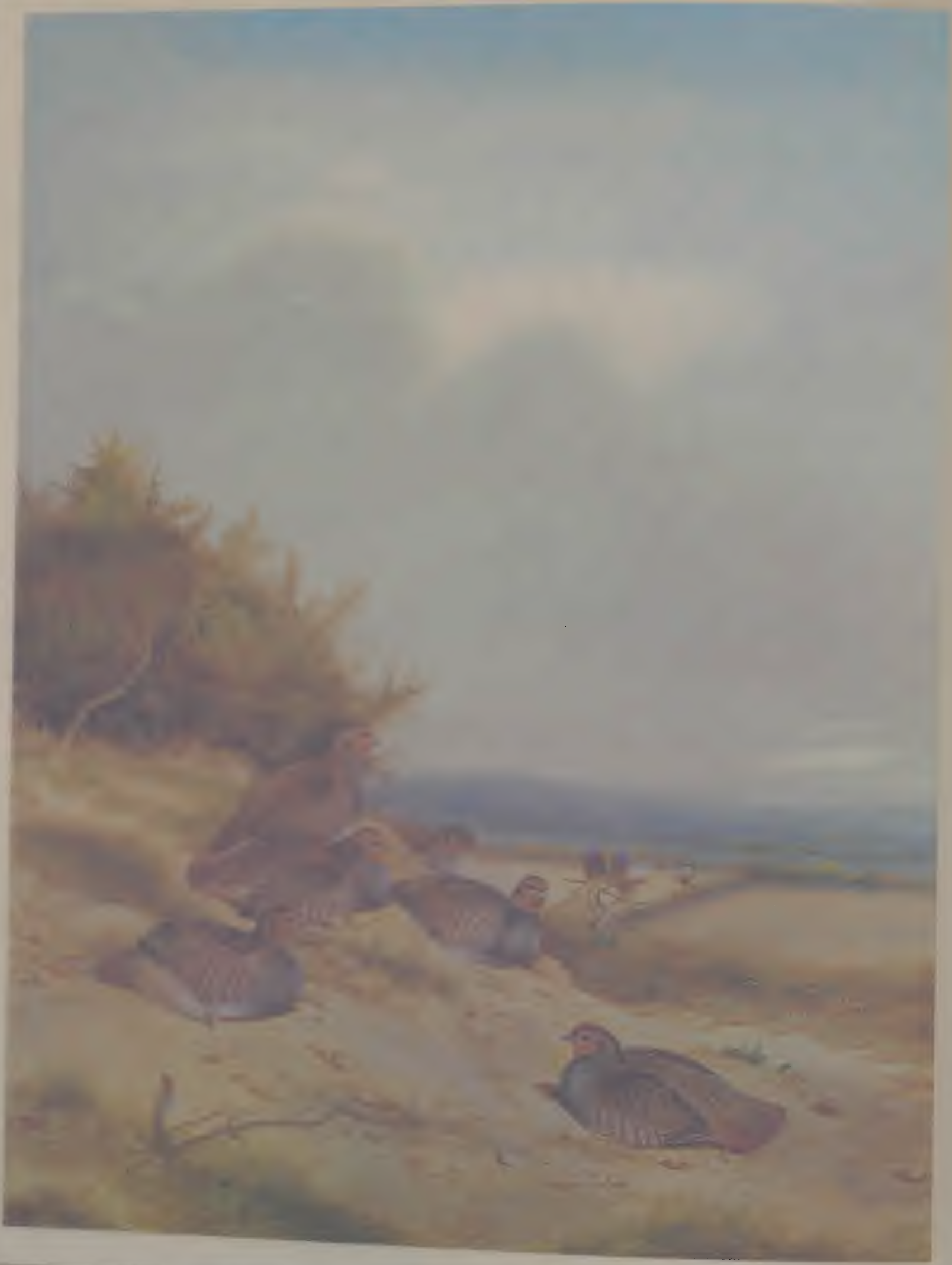

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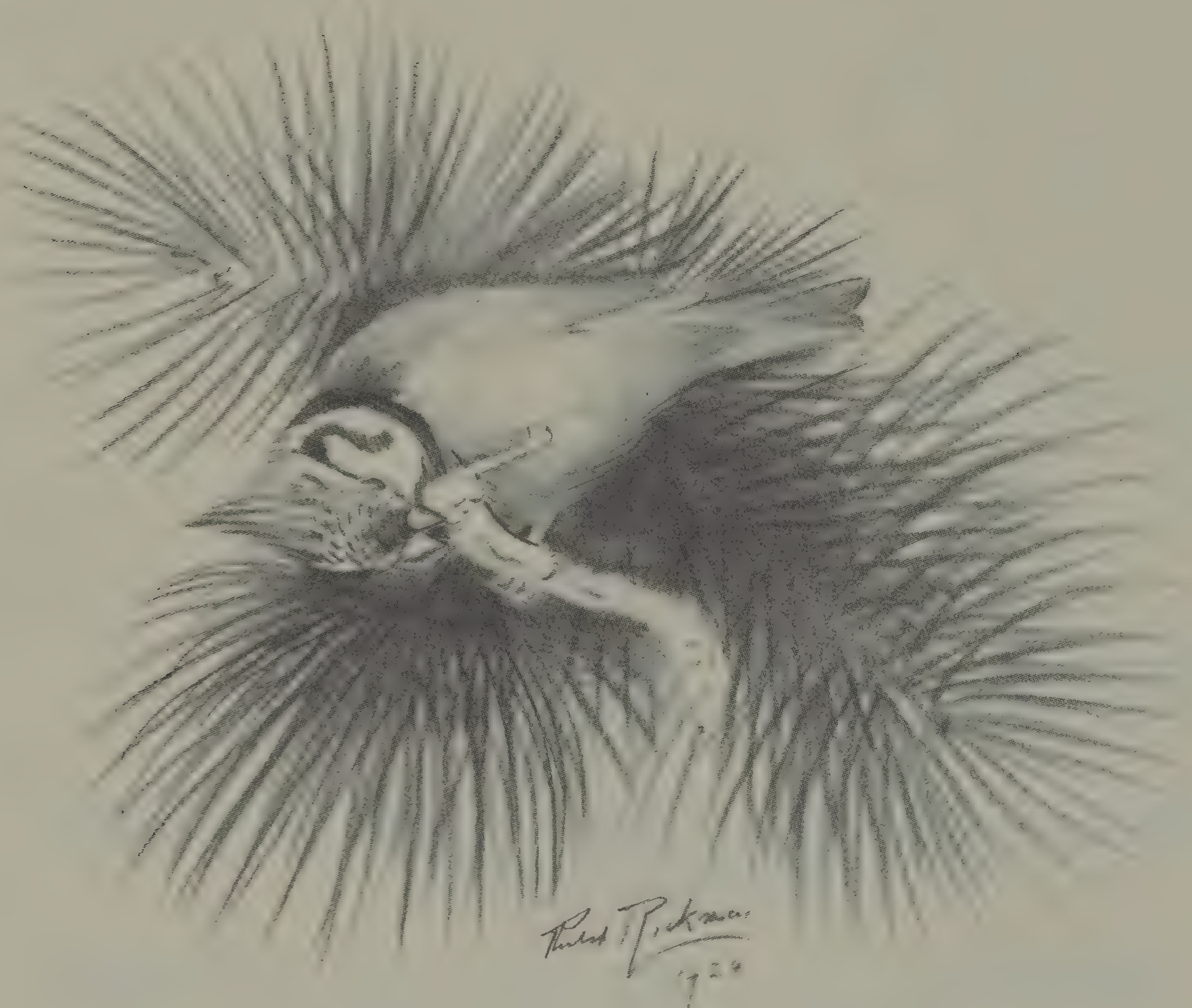

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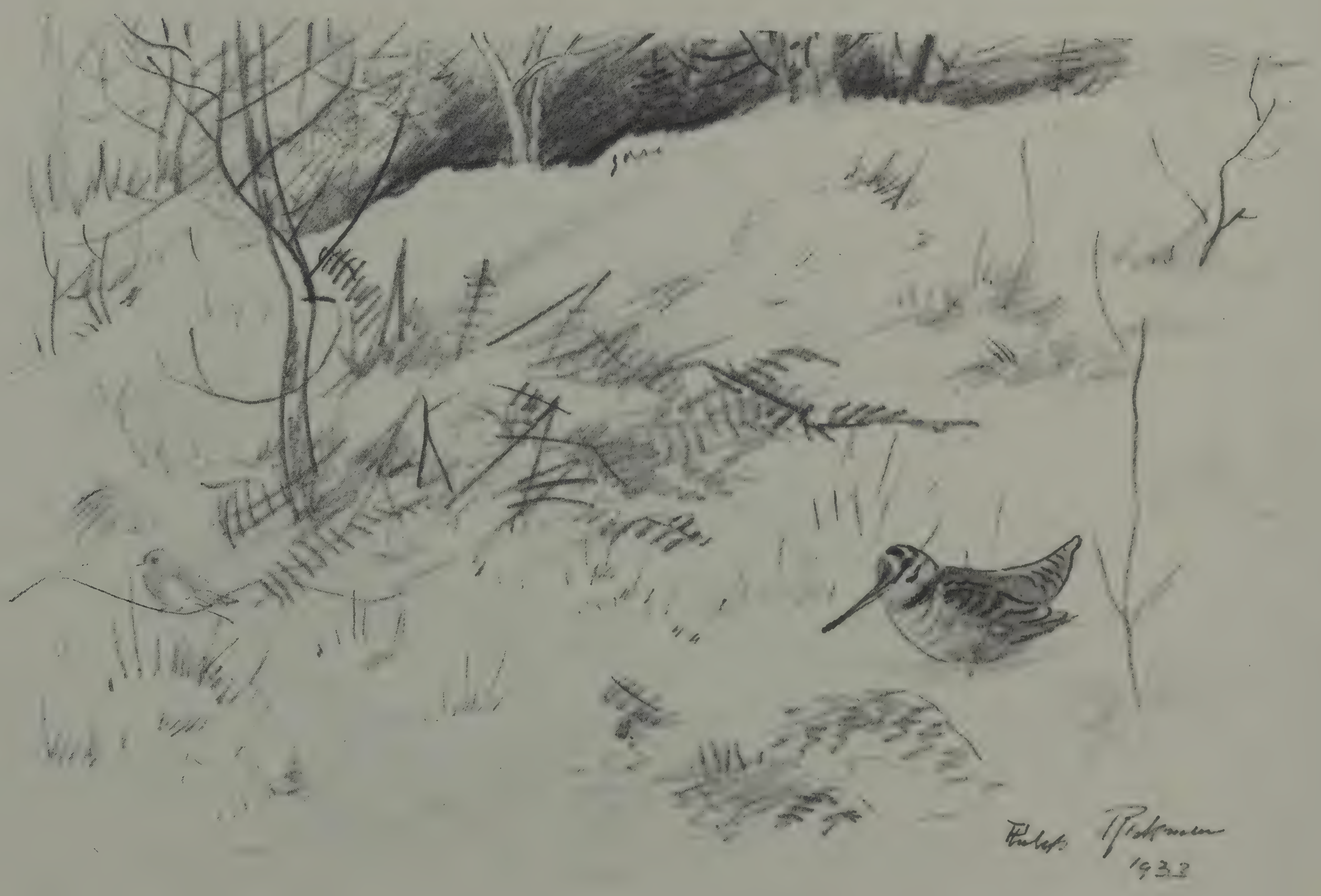
Philip Rickman
1933

Foreword by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT

I have a weakness for books about birds, and when one is illustrated by Philip Rickman, the Grand Old Man of bird painting, I am only too delighted to give it a very warm welcome. As it is now nearly 60 years since his first exhibition and considering that he has never stopped working in all those years, the choice of material for this book must have posed quite a problem.

But what may have been a problem for the editor can only be a pleasure for those fortunate enough to possess a copy of this book.

Philip

Buckingham Palace 1979

Philip Rickman 1978

Editors Note

The creation of this book has been a joy indeed, and I consider myself privileged to be its Editor. For it to be produced in Philip Rickman's 88th year will, I feel sure, help to increase his reputation as one of England's greatest ever bird painters.

Philip Rickman was born in 1891. His father, who retired from the Navy with the rank of Commander, was a strict man, who compared his son's career as a bird artist to that of a daughter going on the stage. How grateful those, who appreciate beautiful pictures, will be to this artist for pursuing his chosen career.

In 1908 Philip Rickman went to Paris to study the rudiments of art and then became a student under George Lodge at 5, The Studios, Thurloe Square. During these early years he not only painted with Lodge but also with Archibald Thorburn. He became a friend of both these great bird artists. From Lodge he learnt craftsmanship and composition and from Thorburn mastery over colour.

I believe the charm of Philip Rickman's paintings are achieved by his attention to accuracy, composition and colour executed with a deft softness of brushwork. He has drawn thousands of pencil sketches of birds from life and many hundreds of watercolour sketches of landscapes and so he is able to paint a bird accurately and place it in its natural surroundings to complete an attractive picture. The sketches and paintings reproduced in this book provide for the reader undeniable proof of these skills. He is also a keen naturalist and observer which is apparent in his writing as well as his painting.

Philip Rickman has held more than thirty one-man exhibitions, his first being held in 1920 at the Greatorex Gallery, Grafton Street. He then continued to exhibit yearly until 1937. His pictures are now exhibited at The Tryon Gallery, Dover Street.

Wildfowl in particular have always interested him and early in his career he was commissioned by the Stevens' brothers of Walcot Hall to paint the Wildfowl in their collection. He painted more than one hundred pictures for them and many of these are on show at the Glenbow Foundation in Calgary, Alberta. Another remarkable collection of over one hundred and fifty watercolours depicting most species of the wildfowl of the world are on view to the public at Bentley Wildfowl Park, Halland, near Uckfield in Sussex. These were painted for his close friend Gerald Askew. Christopher Marler, owner of The Flamingo Gardens at Western Underwood, also owns over one hundred Philip Rickman paintings amongst which are a complete set of the cranes of the world (one of which is plate XVIII).

He has written and illustrated three previous books and has illustrations in a number of others. These are listed at the back of the book.

This book is primarily dedicated to Philip Rickman's distinctive and charming pictures but also to the man himself who, in the making of this book, has become a great friend. A more charming and gentle person it would be hard to find and I am deeply grateful to him for all his invaluable help and encouragement.

I wish to record my thanks to my wife for her constant support and help with all the correspondence involved, to Mr and Mrs John Ollivant for their advice and encouragement, to Christopher Marler for permission to reproduce fourteen of the coloured plates in this book, and not least to the following for having lent pictures or provided help: Mary Askew, Andrew Barker, Johnnie Baxendale, Richard Carew-Pole, Charles Hall, Bill Makins, Harold Miller, Colin Neville, John Smithers and Michael Steward. I must also thank the printers and binders who have, by their skill and understanding, produced the book exactly as desired. The author wishes to add his grateful thanks to Country Life Limited for permission to quote from their volumes *The Waterfowl of the World* by Delacour and Scott.

Richard Colebrook-Robjent

Grey Plover Cuxh

Philip Rickman

1931

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VI	The Little Stranger (American Green-winged Teal)
VII	A Pair of Garganeys
VIII	Brazilian Teal
IX	Falcated Duck
X	Pintail
XI	A Thaw (Shovelers, Common and Jack Snipe)
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XIII	The Dornoch Firth (Scaup)
XIV	Stellers Eiders
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XVI	Smews
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Selected Sketches II	Pintail alarmed, Partridges, Grouse – Balnaboth, Falcated Duck, Kingfisher, Goldcrests, Mallard, natural group – Widgeon
Tailpiece	Dead Woodcock – as it fell

Preface

As all my books have been out of print for many years it has been suggested that I should embark on another by my publishers.

This will, in the main, contain reproductions of some of the pictures I have painted over the years, and I am very grateful to the owners who have been kind enough to lend them. As far back as I can remember I have always been very interested in bird life and as soon as I could I used to draw them, even when I was still in the nursery. I was fortunate to have tuition from the late George Lodge and many valuable hints and much encouragement over many years from Archibald Thorburn who had a wonderful mastery over his medium.

I have, from time to time, been asked about methods and I agree here with my Father who used to say 'There is nothing so freely offered as advice'. I would say draw and paint from life for then one has truth to start from. A knowledge of anatomy is necessary and highly trained powers of observation is a great help, e.g. some birds drop a wing when scratching their heads, others do not; geese stretch their wings in a different way to ducks. It is difficult today to form a collection of skins which are invaluable for colour and markings. It is also important to get the colour of soft parts (bills, feet and eyes) from healthy birds when alive. Colour, of course, depends a great deal on food and health, especially in captivity where some foods are artificial. It must be remembered that new feathers are fed by blood and it is not until the follicle is closed that feathers become dead matter, so to speak. As regards colour, Goosanders can be quite easily reared on beef and grow well but they never attain the beautiful salmon colour in captivity, at least I have never seen one do so, and it is extraordinarily evanescent and soon fades to a great extent in a dead bird. I am talking of the drakes of course.

It is very useful to have careful maps of both under and top sides of wings which as a rule are closed in a skin, and it will be noticed that the overlaps of the feathers are quite different on the two sides. As regards observation, certain Pintail drakes will carry their long scapulars in a certain way and that particular drake will always carry them in that way, whereas another will differ slightly. This can be noticed in Plate no X. There is a light and dark form in many of the females. It does not seem to vary in drakes, or not very noticeably. The ideal thing, I think, is to make a number of sketches from life in pencil and colour as then it is much easier to get the effect of light on the plumage, remembering of course that light governs local colour. A Red-breasted Goose, for instance, is a very strongly marked bird in a pattern of black, red and white; in late evening it tends to look grey.

I used the above method when painting the collection at Walcot Hall and so have many sketches of swans, geese and ducks in colour from life. These paintings are now in the Glenbow Foundation in Calgary, Canada. The above method is, I think, the best though it is advisable to have skins as well.

I would stress that this book does not pretend to be, in any way, a scientific treatise on the birds depicted, but I have jotted down various things that I have felt might be of some interest and noted during many years.

Philip Rickman 1979

cock Peewit
♀
Cuckmere
Philip Rickman 1931
Philip Rickman 1933

PLATE I

CARIBBEAN FLAMINGOES

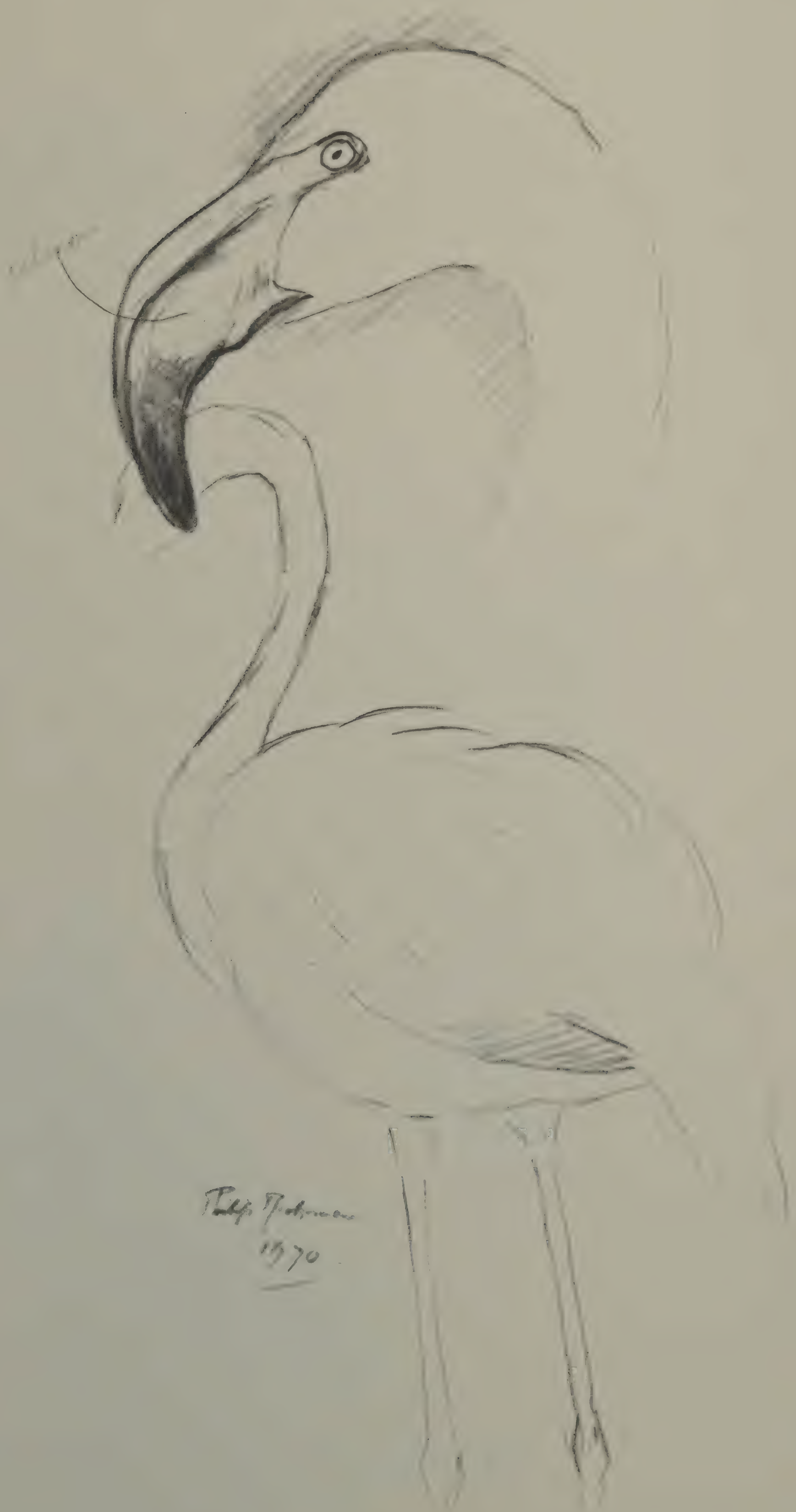
Phoenicopterus ruber

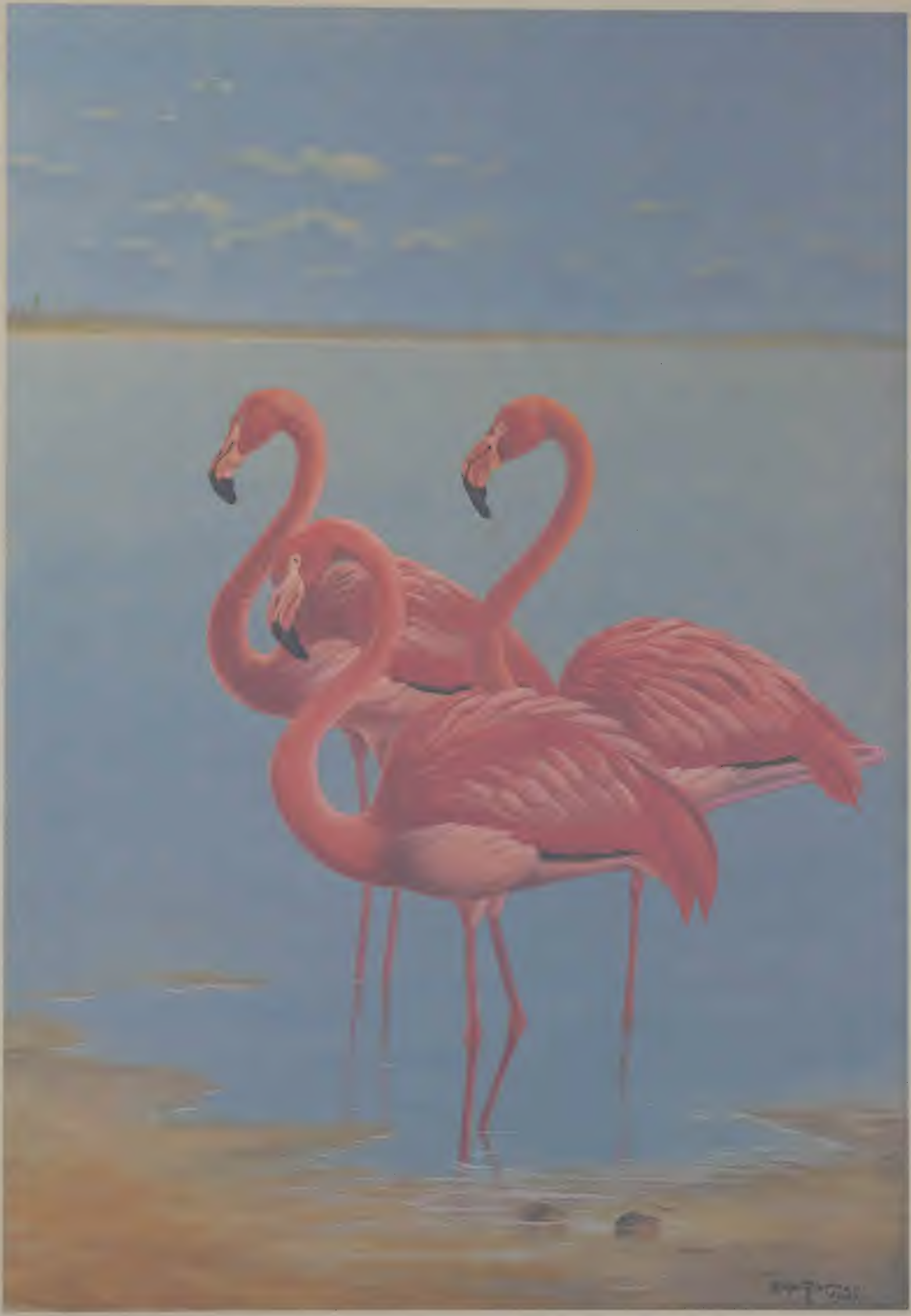
Caribbean Flamingoes 1967

Phoenicopterus ruber

THE Caribbean Flamingo is perhaps the most striking of the genus. The pink feathers are due to absorption of carophyl into the blood from food. My friend Mr. Christopher Marler has a fine collection at Weston Underwood of all the flamingo species (Greater, Lesser, Chilean, Andean, Caribbean and James) and has successfully bred both Caribbean and Greater.

The picture was taken from life at Weston Underwood.





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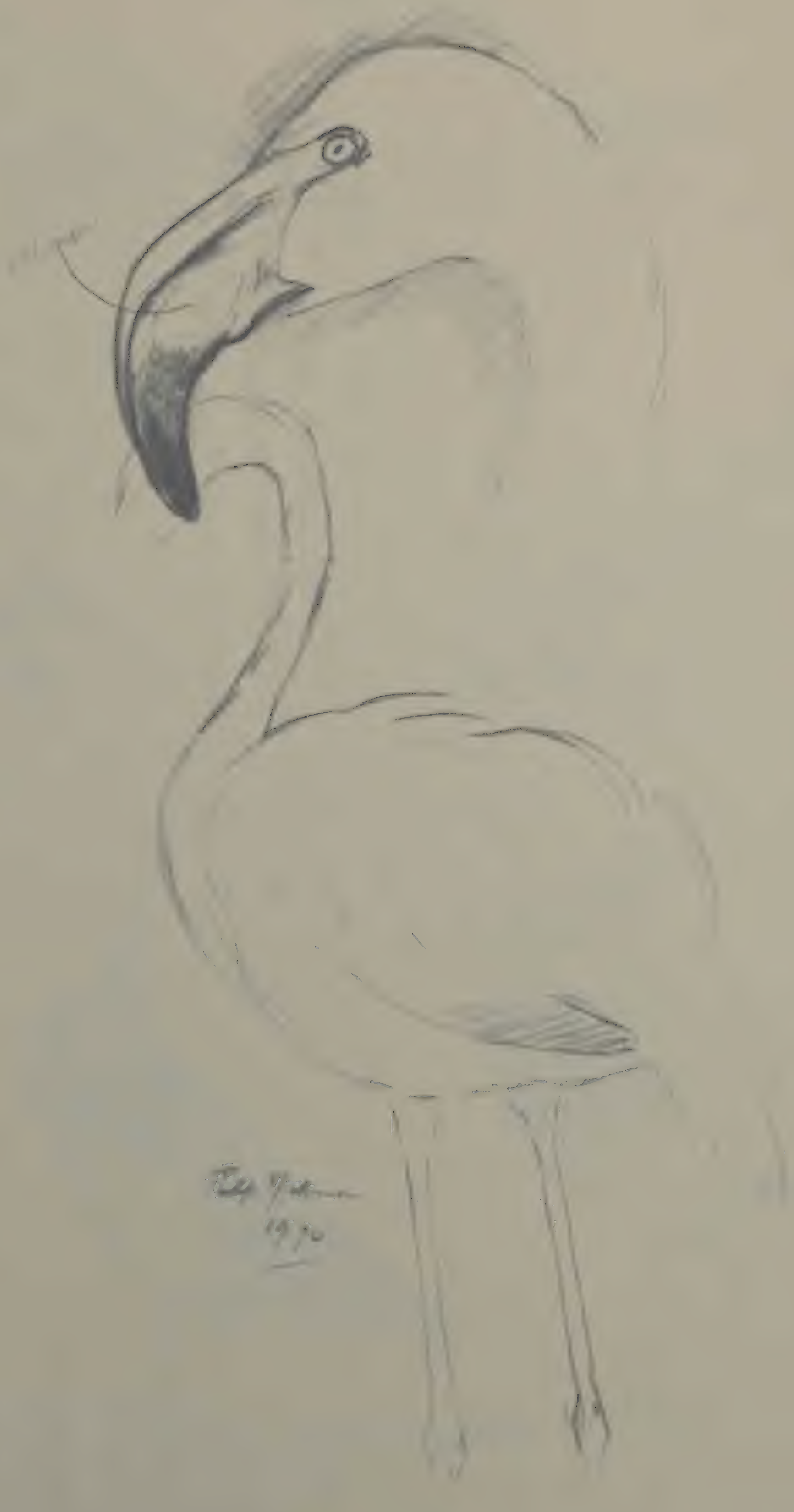


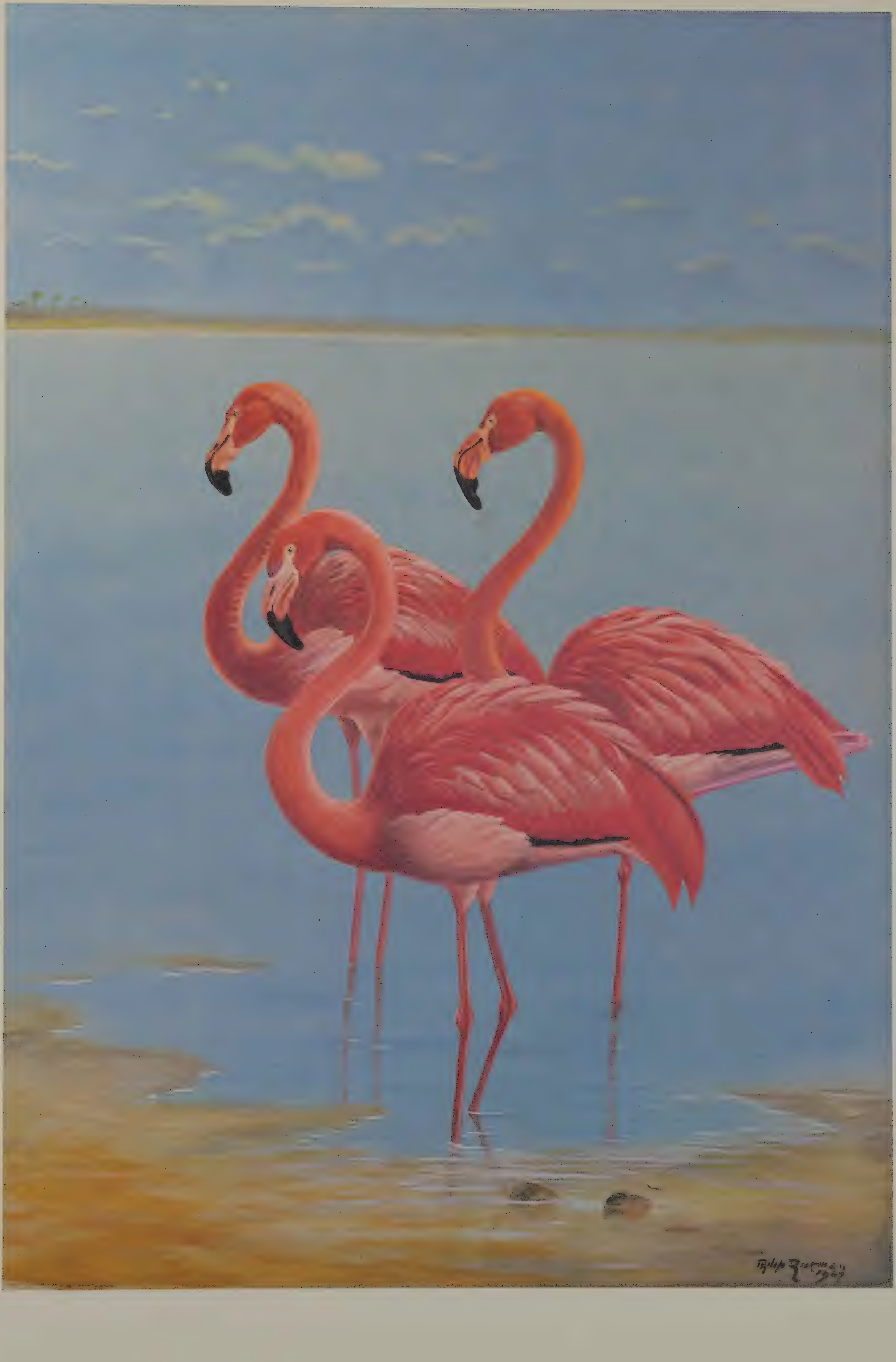


PLATE II

TRUMPETER SWANS AND CYGNETS

Cygnus cygnus buccinator

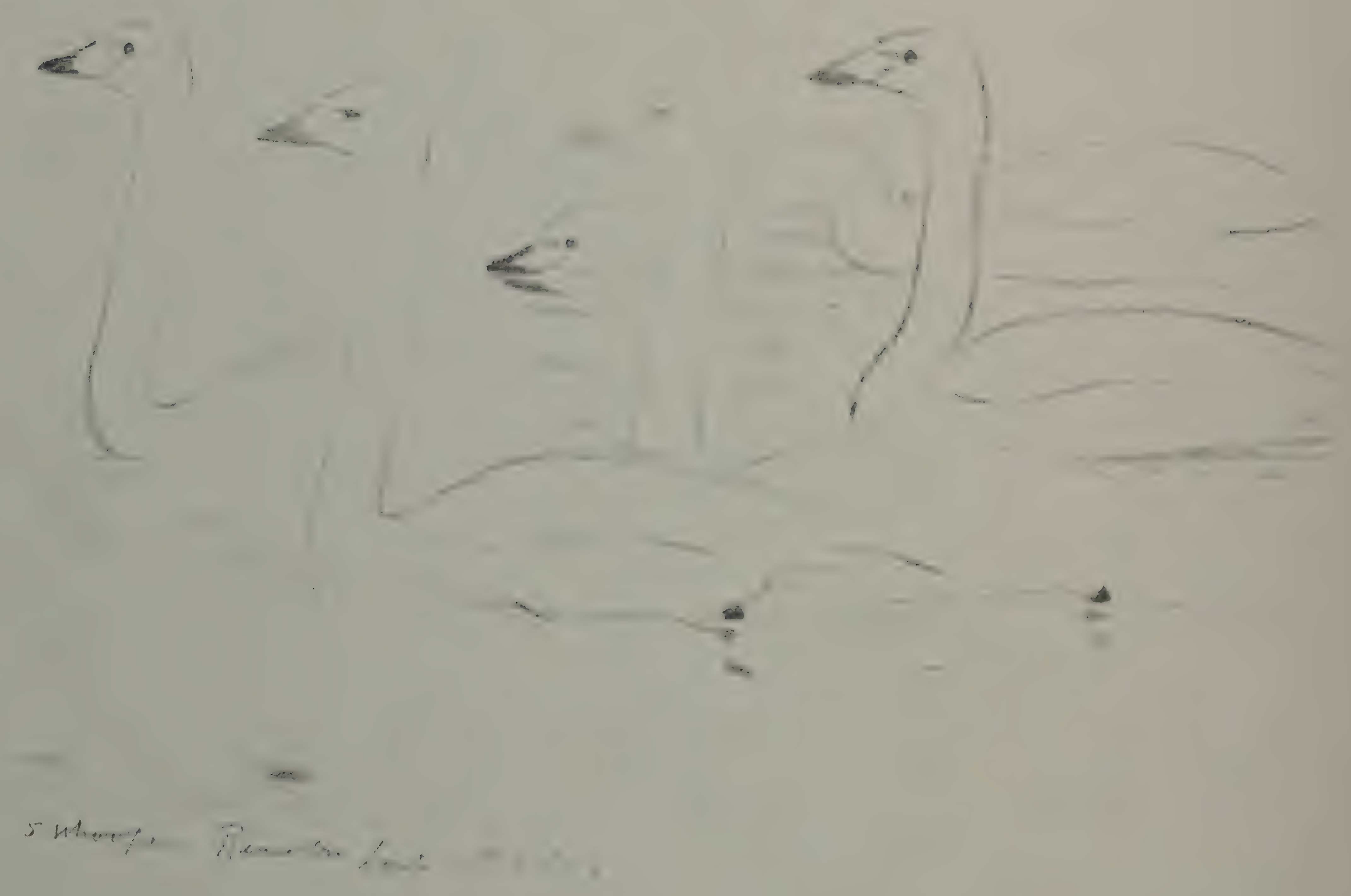
Trumpeter Swans and Cygnets 1971

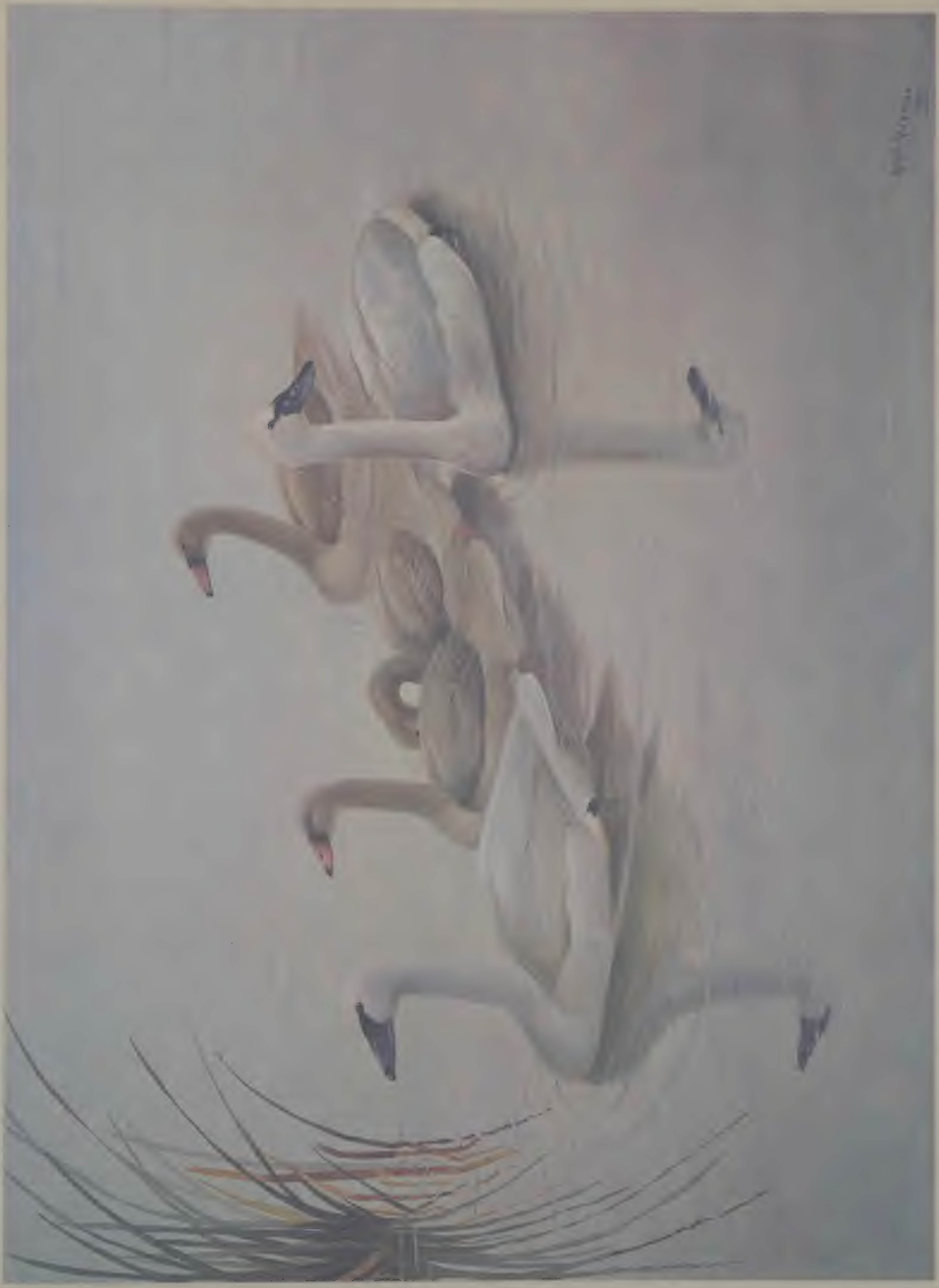
Cygnus cygnus buccinator

THESE handsome birds, the largest of the family, do well in captivity. If satisfactory accommodation is afforded them, they are easily bred, and will breed on quite small pools. These birds are aggressive; their size and weight enables them to master any other waterfowl. The sygnets are attractive little creatures when first hatched, with pink bills which, as they mature, turn black like those of their parents; the pink colour can be seen on well grown cygnets.

If there is sufficient space as at Woburn, Trumpeters can establish their own territories and are not a nuisance. I have noticed years ago at Walcot Hall that Cereopsis geese, which are extremely aggressive, in a small enclosure, did not appear to be troublesome with plenty of space. From what I have seen I do not think swans bother much about small duck, e.g. teal, but geese are not looked on with favour in a smallish space.

I am happy to say that owing to the admirable measures that have been taken, much on the initiative of Jean Delacour, the trumpeter swan is in no danger of extinction.





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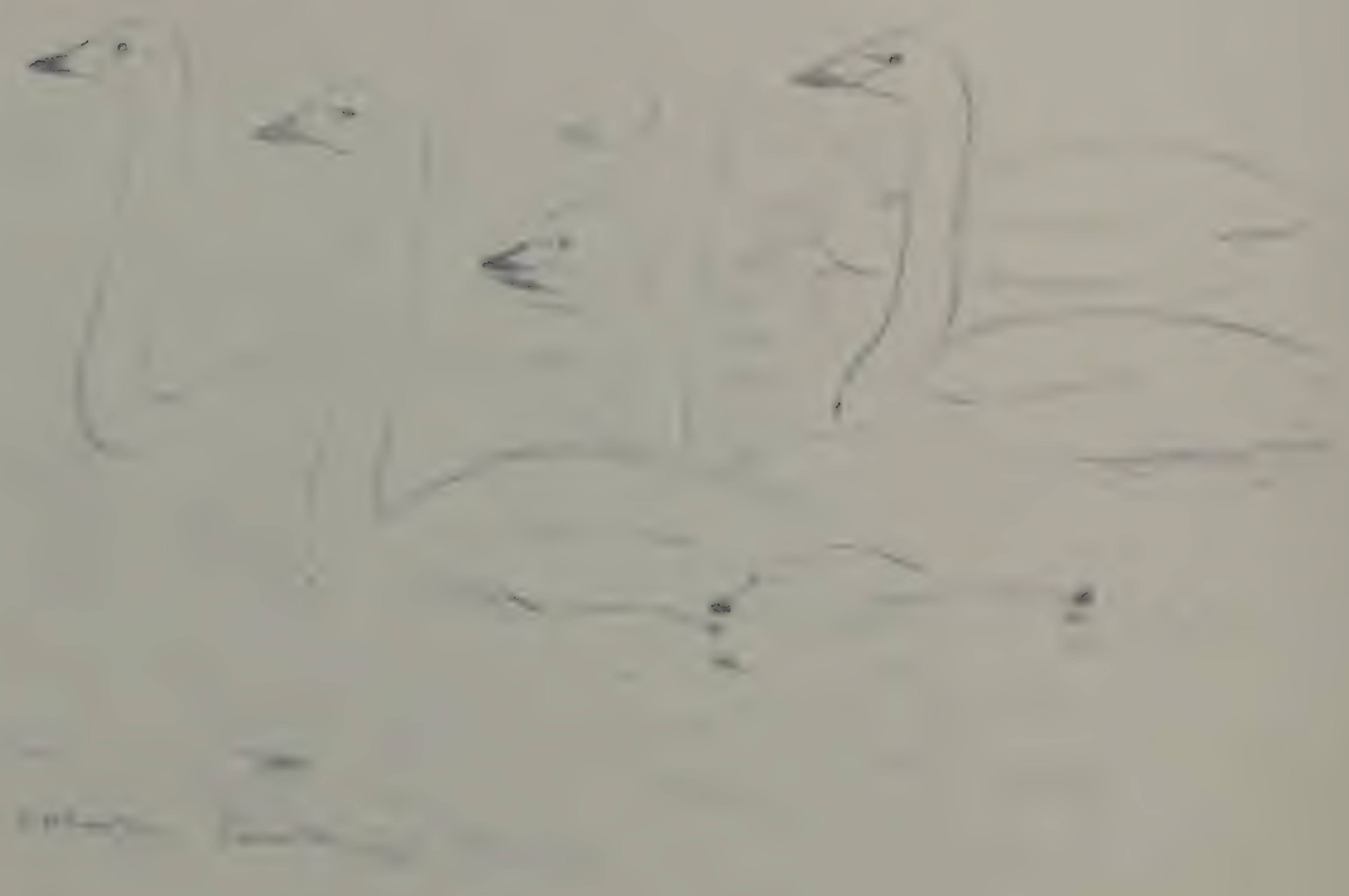


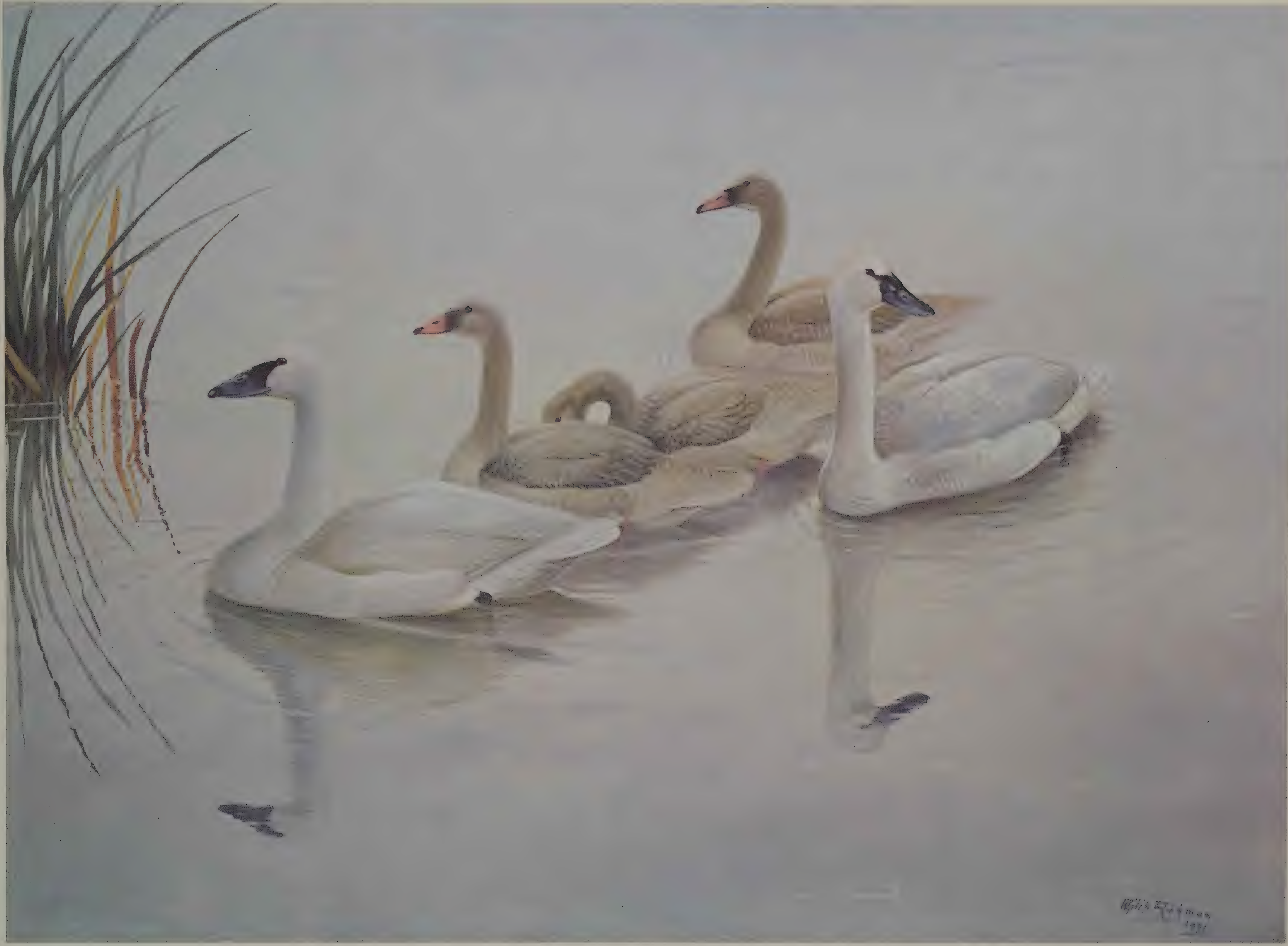


PLATE III

BARNACLE GEESE

Branta leucopsis

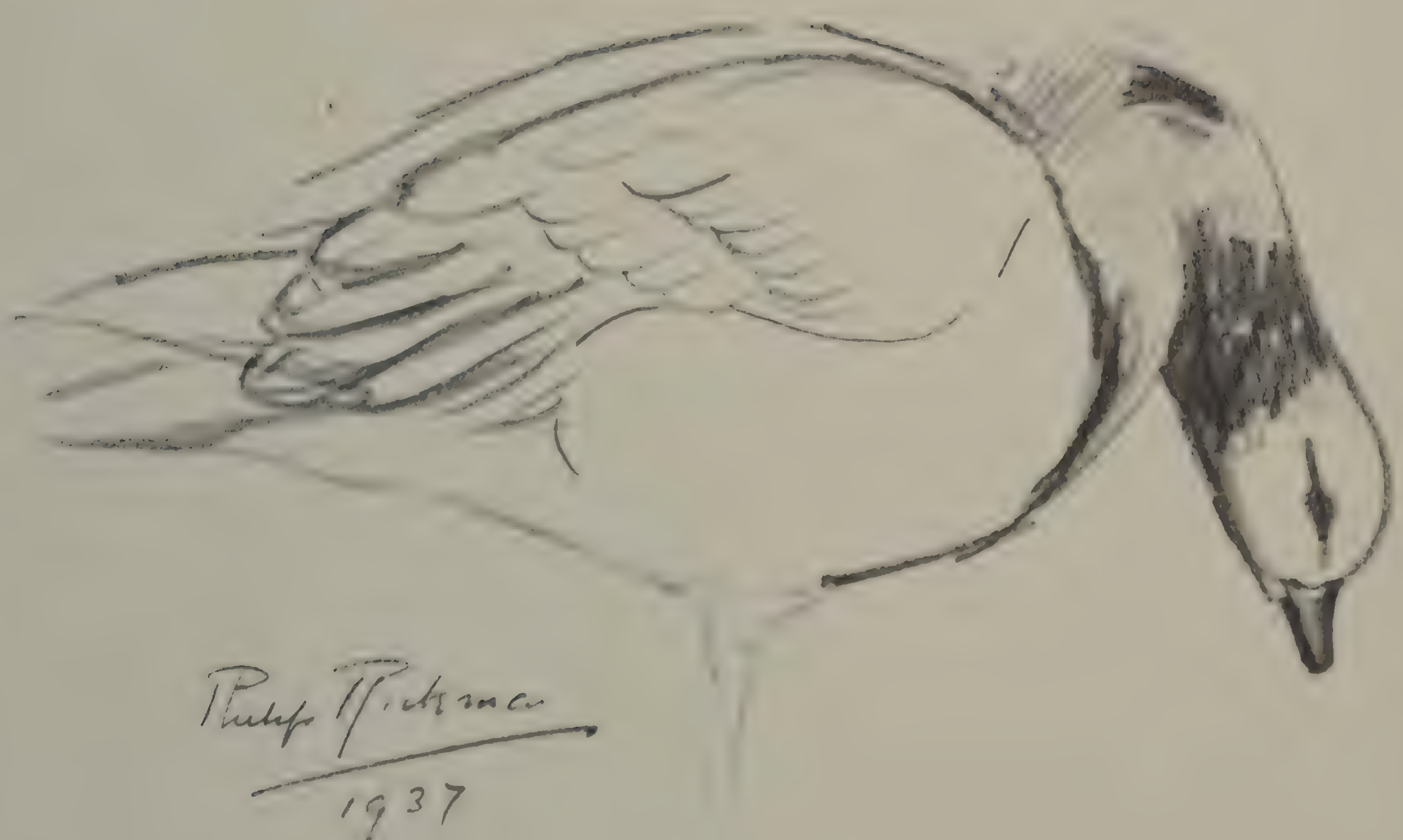
Barnacle Geese 1962

Branta leucopsis

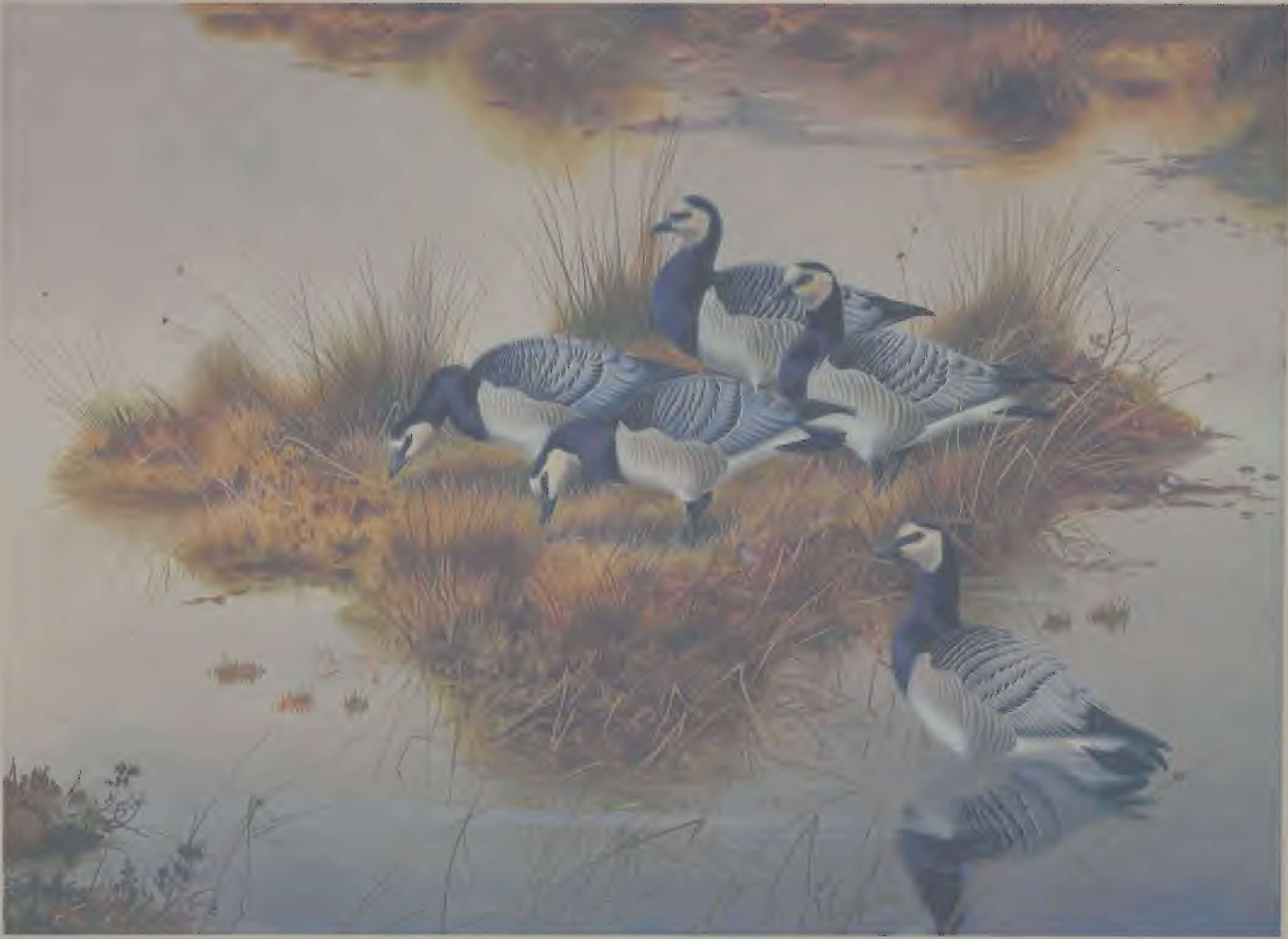
BARNACLE geese are small and, like many small creatures, rather querulous. These geese breed in Spitzbergen, Greenland, and Southern Novaya Zemlya, often high up on rocky outcrops, which enables them to get a good view of their surroundings. Their calls are rather harsh, and if a goose in captivity is approached when she is accompanied by her goslings she will hiss and endeavour to frighten the intruder.

Barnacle geese leave their Northern breeding grounds as winter approaches, and large numbers winter on the Scottish Isles and on the mainland. Caerlaverock is visited by very large numbers of birds. Many of the young of these geese bred at Bentley in Sussex remain there quite happily, though full winged, and every now and then fly round in large circles and soon return whence they came.

Barnacle geese are very attractive birds. The grey, black and white is arranged in such pleasant tones that a flock feeding is a very charming sight.



Philip Rickman
1937



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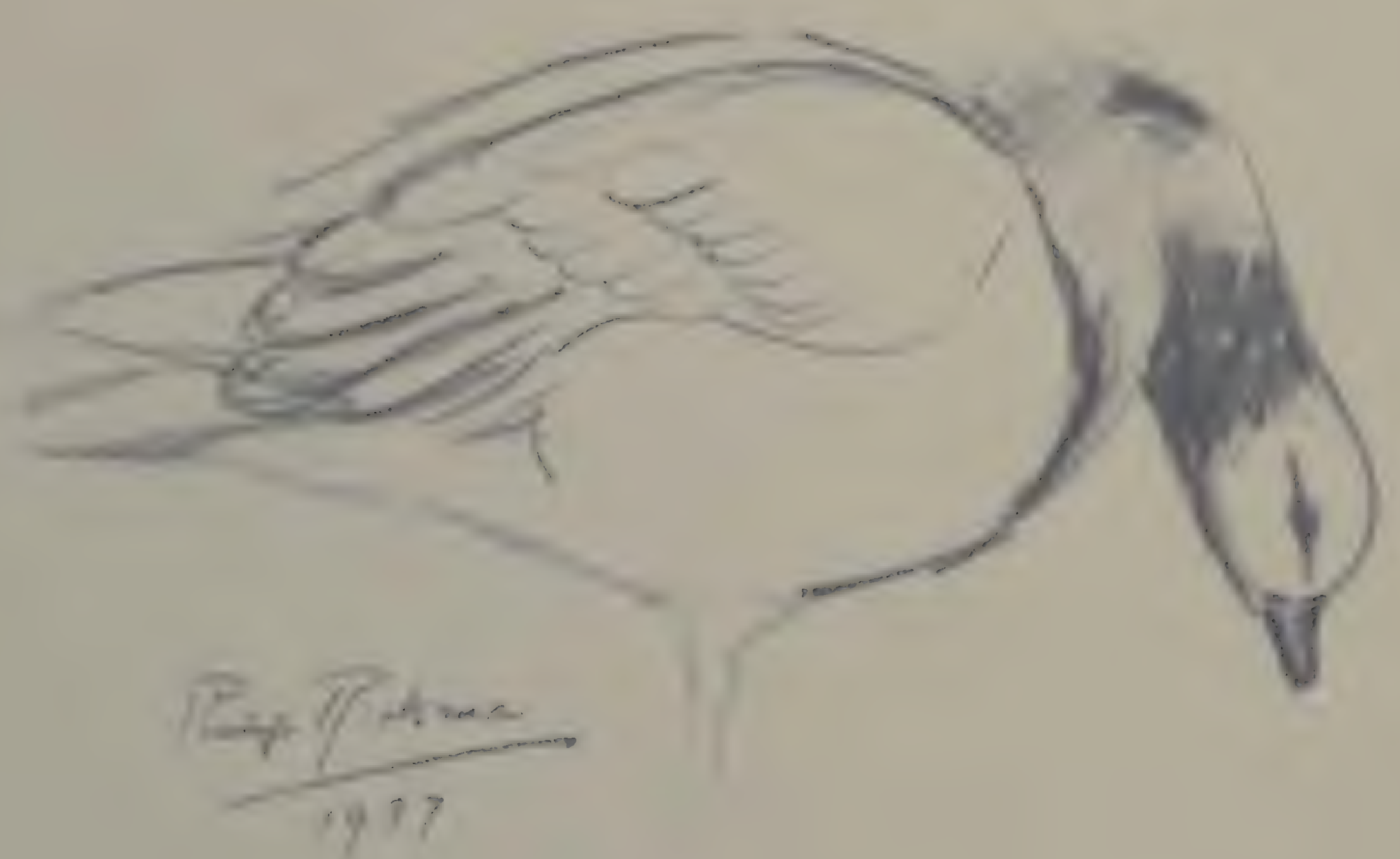


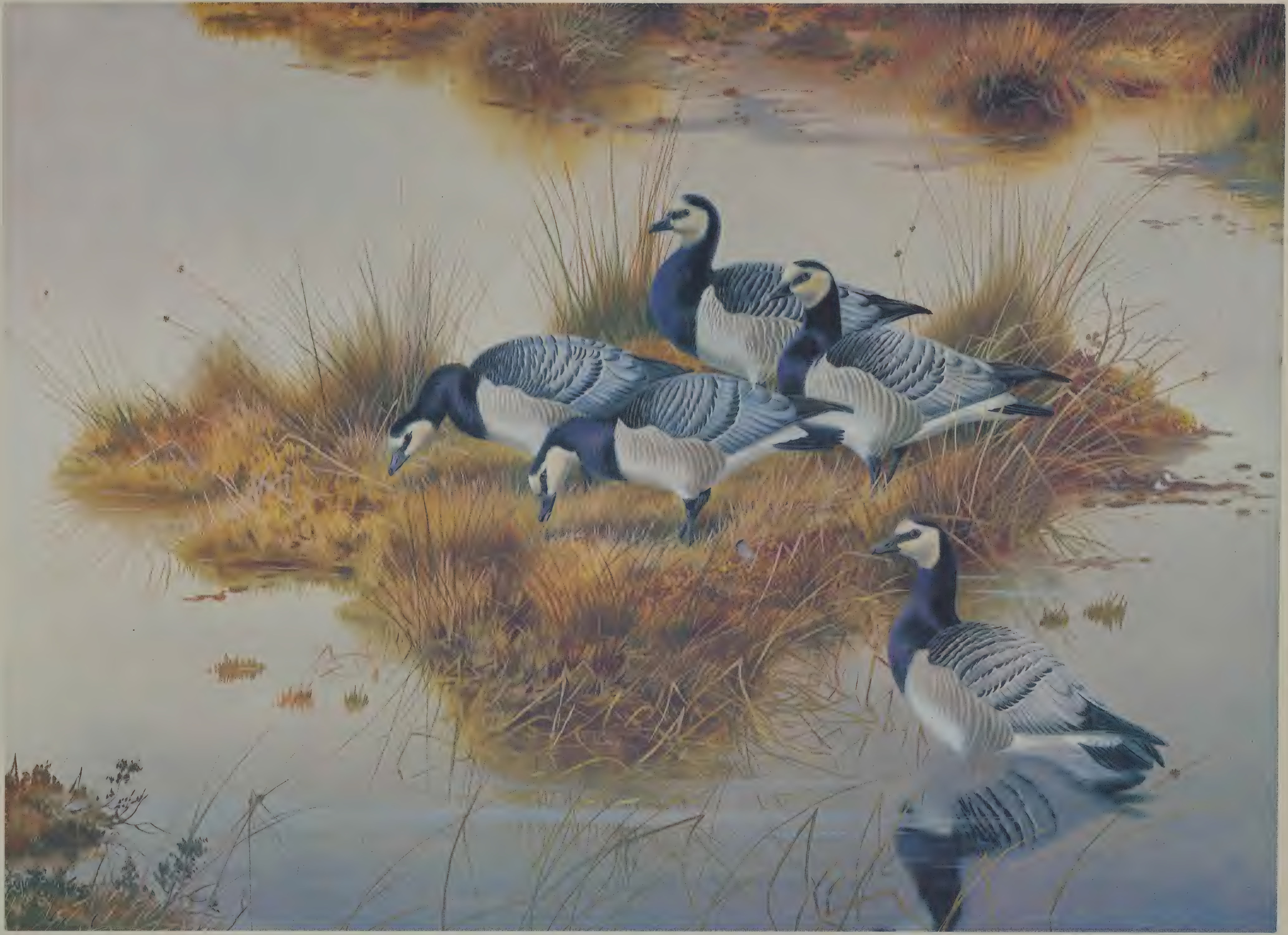


PLATE IV

RED-BREASTED GEESE

Branta ruficollis

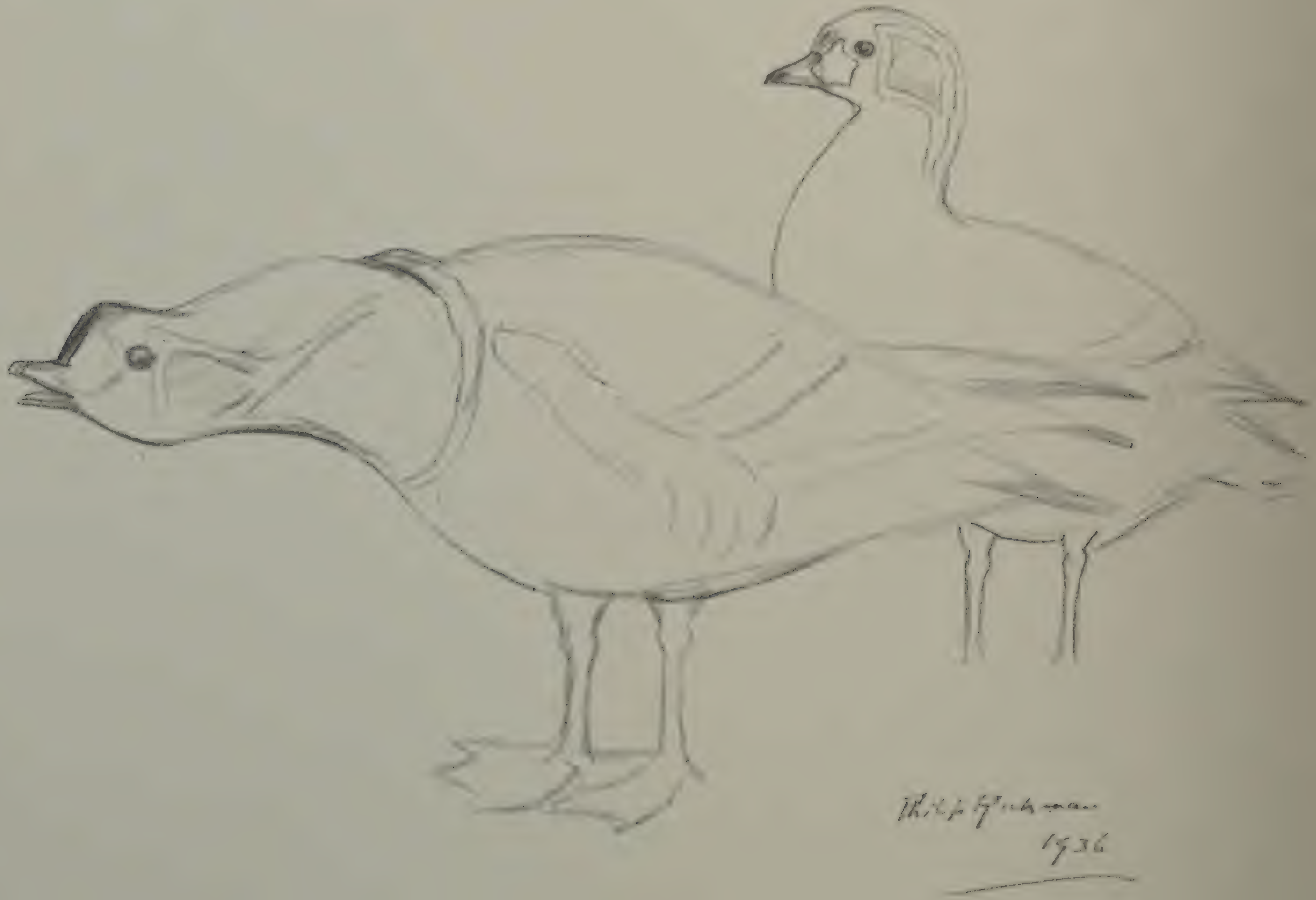
Red-breasted Geese 1960
Branta ruficollis

THESE very attractive little geese breed on the tundra – open and wooded – of Siberia, and winter mostly south of the Caspian Sea according to Delacour. Fairly large numbers winter in Rumania, and I remember the late Sir Rex Benson telling me that quite a number, along with Lesser Whitefronts, used to winter on the Hortobagy plain. According to Delacour they bred on much the same sort of terrain as Barnacle geese, but of course in quite a different part of the world, e.g. from the eastern borders of the Yamal peninsular and the lower Obyamal to the basin of the Khattanga.

The Red-breasted Goose is the longest winged of all the geese, and it can be seen in the plate how far the wings project beyond the tail. The ganders at times display on the water as well as on land, the head and neck very close to the surface if swimming. They call while displaying; the long almost mane-like feathers of the neck give it a very thick appearance. The white feathers on the flanks vary a good deal in different birds; in some a great deal of white shows. In their first year the young birds are of much the same colour as their parents but duller in tone. The white edged feathers forming two wing bars are of a dingey hue, compared with the mature birds.

They run and walk well; when feeding they are rather querulous, irritable creatures behaving in much the same way as Barnacle geese. Those birds that have been imported may take years to breed, and even so sometimes miss a season, but I did hear of one pair bought from a dealer that settled down and bred at once.

It has already been noted that Red-breasted Geese are apt to make their nests near Peregrine eyries (*Delacour and Scott*). Further, I have received a most interesting note from W. Makins dated Feb 7th 1979 as follows: "A man in Lincolnshire who keeps waterfowl also keeps a pair of kestrels in an aviary. Two years ago, two pairs of Red-breasted Geese nested at the foot of this aviary. Last year the aviary was moved to another place some distance away, and last Spring the Red-breasted Geese again nested at the foot of the aviary in its new position".



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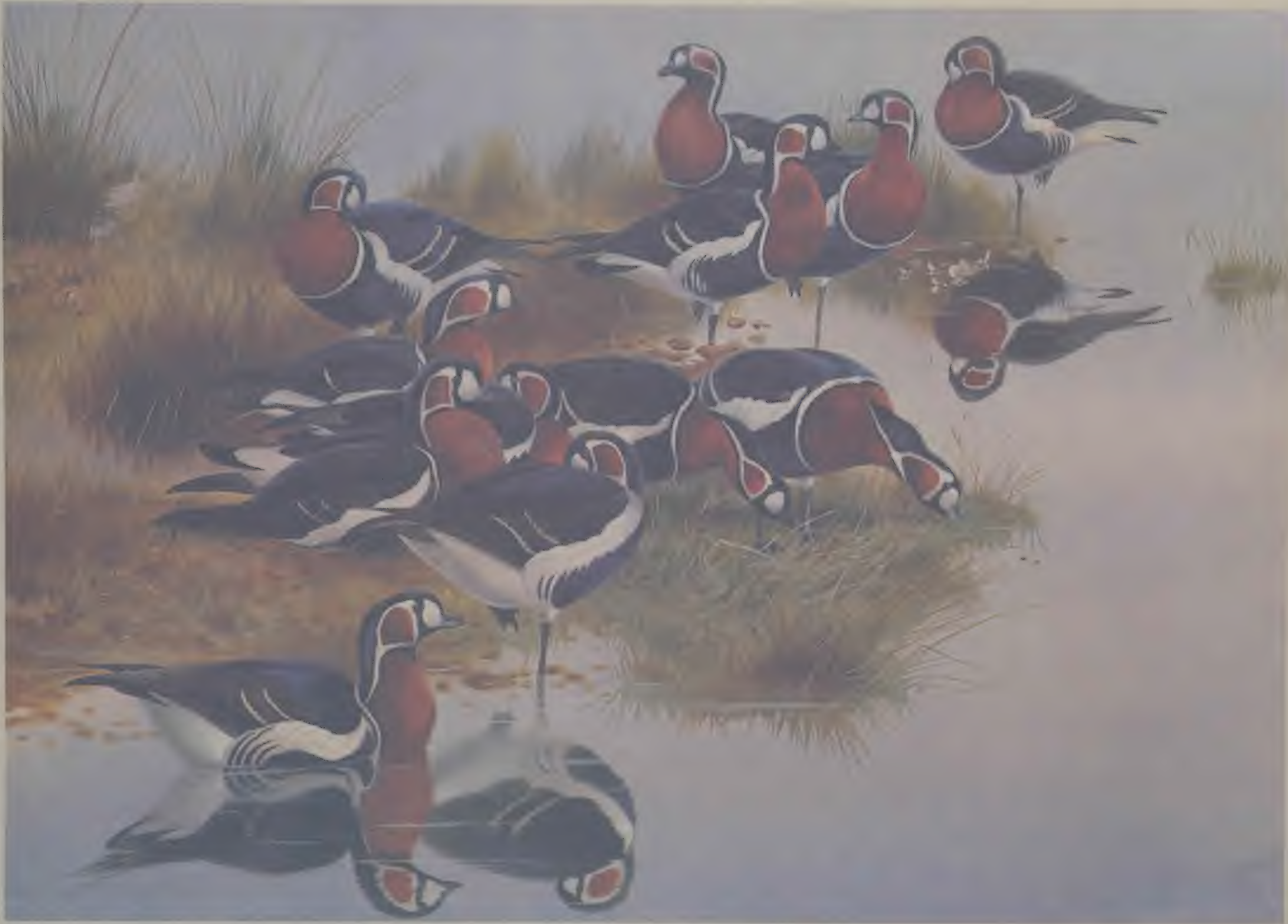

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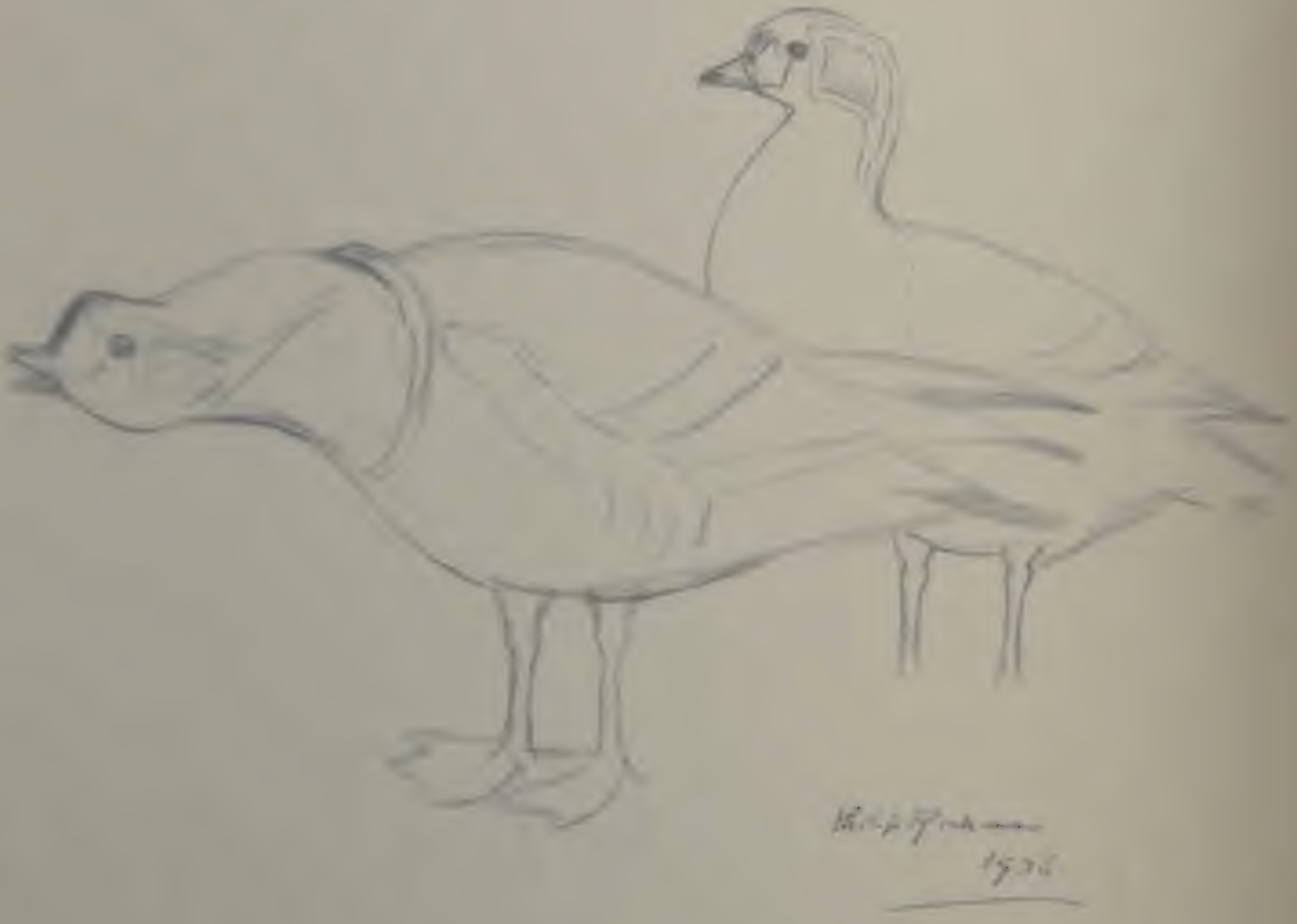


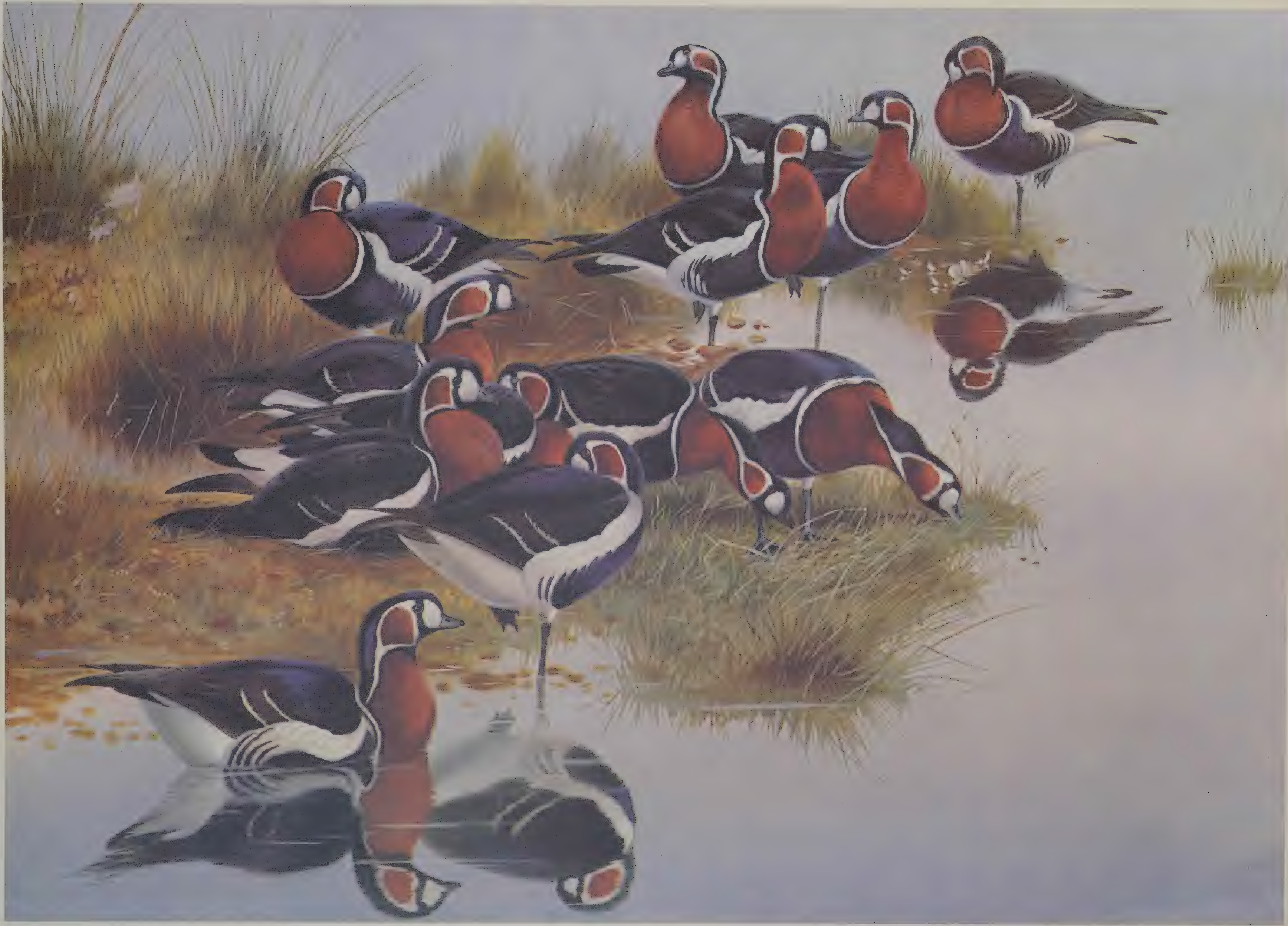


PLATE V

A SCOTTISH MOSS IN SPRING

MALLARD AND TEAL

Anas platyrhynchos/Anas crecca crecca

A Scottish Moss in Spring (Mallard & Teal) 1972

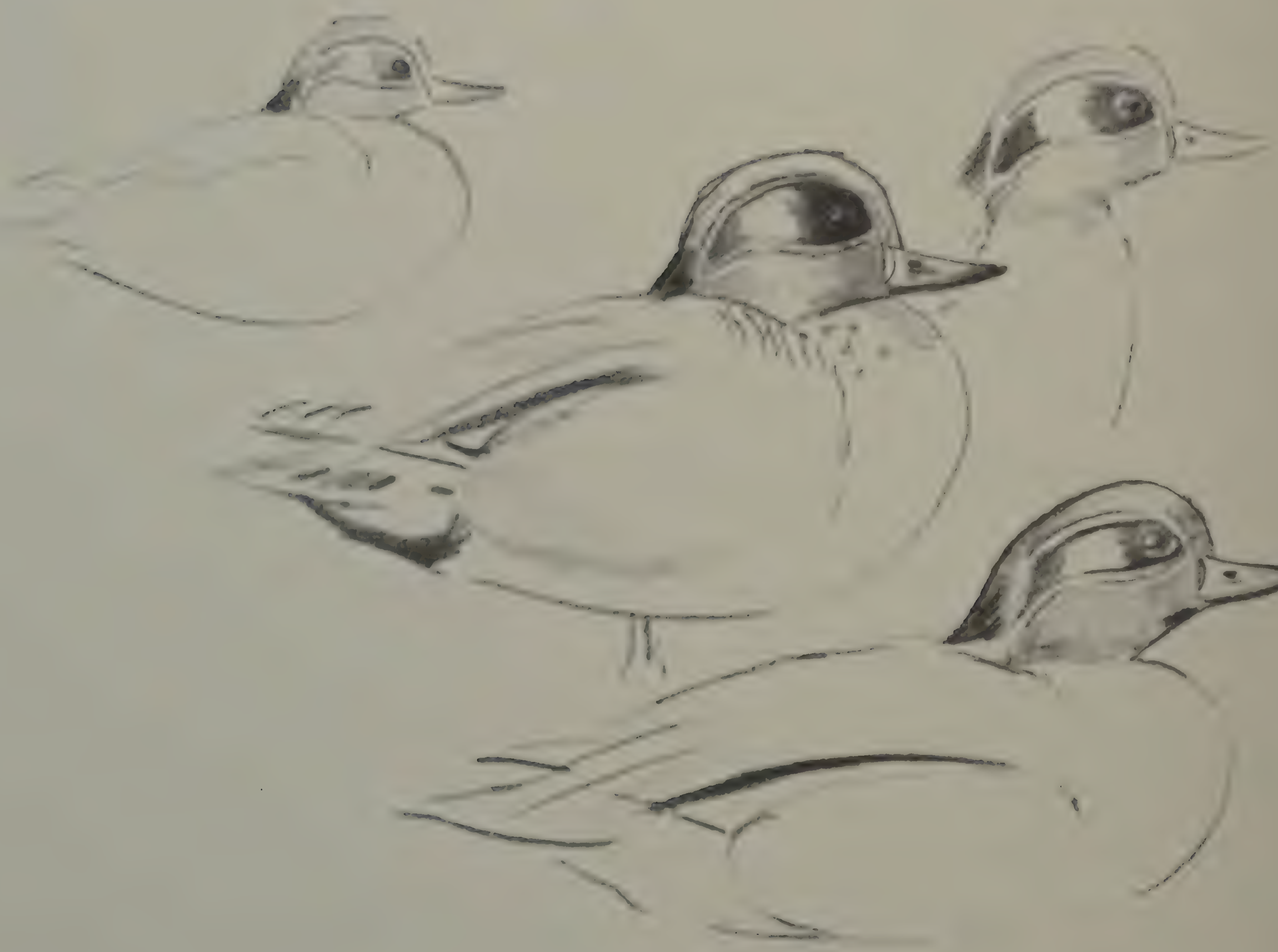
Anas platyrhynchos/Anas crecca crecca

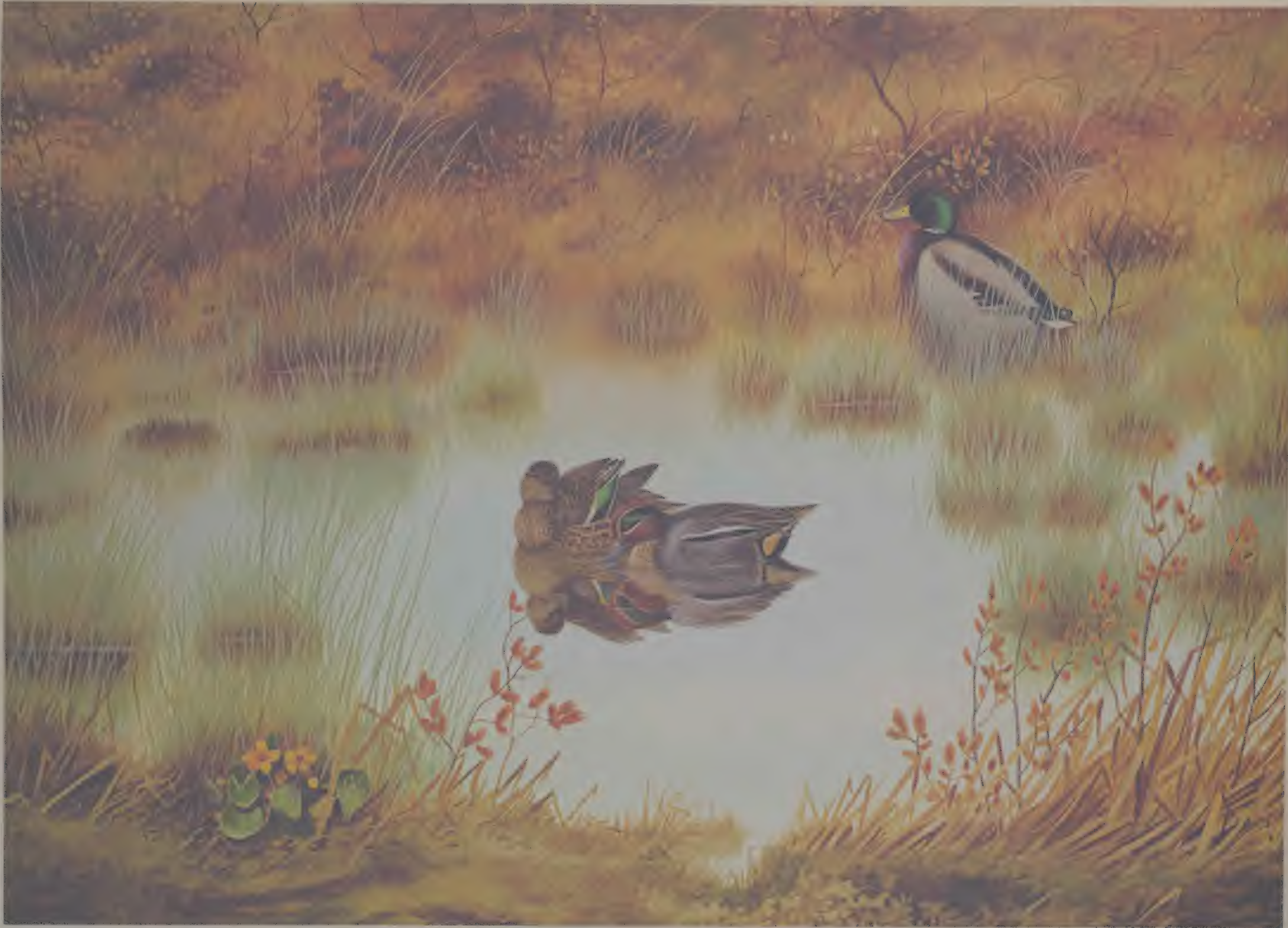
THE Teal is a pretty little duck with a very brilliant green speculum, which breeds well in suitable places. My only acquaintance with nesting birds is in Scotland; they used to breed commonly about the burn on the flat at Gaick. The ducks feign injury when disturbed with young, and flap along the water to lead the intruder away.

Teal rise very quickly and get up speed at once. I remember the late Robert Hargreaves – an excellent shot – reckoned that the second barrel at Teal was one of the most difficult. They seem to know when a thaw is coming; I was told by the late Sir Richard Graham that he had frequently noticed that when the ponds were still covered with ice, the Teal would sit about, perhaps even for a day or two, and the thaw would come. Teal have always struck me as rather timid in captivity and do not come up to feed as readily as other ducks. This applies particularly to birds that have been caught in decoys and pinioned. Full winged wild Teal on the other hand come in to feed with pinioned birds and seem extraordinarily tame, but of course they know they can go at any moment.

Mallard are the most common ducks in the temperate parts of the World, and are represented by various sub-species. The male Common Mallard in breeding plumage is very handsome, and has the advantage that it will breed under almost any conditions if there is water. Another advantage is that Mallard have a very strong homing instinct. If kept full winged, and if reasonable conditions are observed (i.e. food obtainable and undue disturbances avoided) they will home and bring others with them. I have often seen them on the sea in the day time, but I doubt very much their standing up to weather that is quite tolerable to the sea-ducks.

If hand reared and left full winged and regularly fed, they become exceedingly tame and will land in a boat to take food. I remember some young cousins of mine many years ago arranged that they would get a new governess to go with them in a boat on a fair sized pond, one of three in a row connected by deep ditches. They took bread and whistled for the ducks, which came flying in, settled on the water, and then flew into the boat. Of course the unfortunate woman was soaked.





A Scottish Moss in Spring (Mallard & Teal) 1972

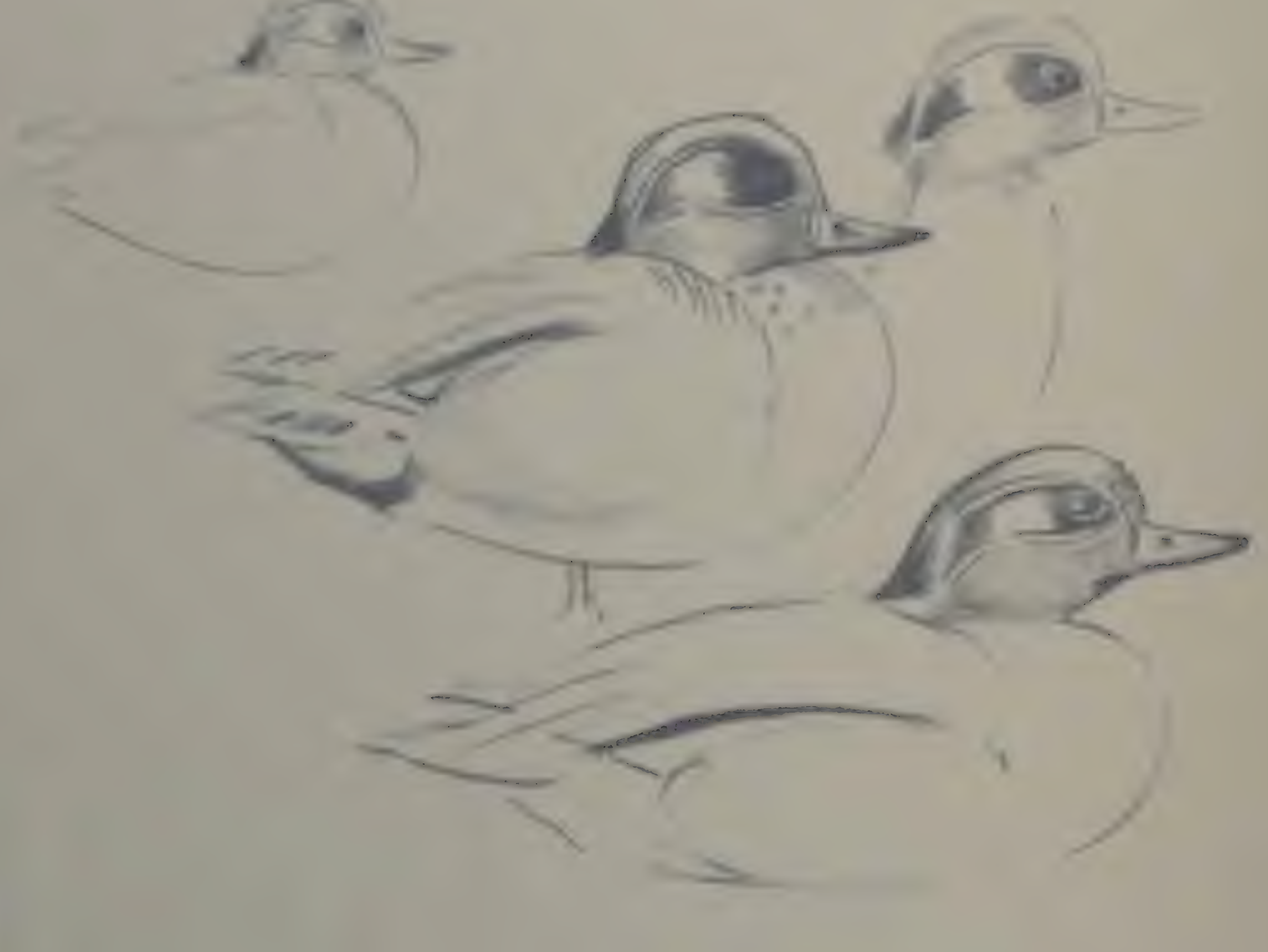
Anas platyrhynchos/Anas crecca crecca

THE Teal is a pretty little duck with a very brilliant green speculum, which breeds well in suitable places. My only acquaintance with nesting birds is in Scotland; they used to breed commonly about the burn on the flat at Gaick. The ducks feign injury when disturbed with young, and flap along the water to lead the intruder away.

Teal rise very quickly and get up speed at once. I remember the late Robert Hargreaves – an excellent shot – reckoned that the second barrel at Teal was one of the most difficult. They seem to know when a thaw is coming; I was told by the late Sir Richard Graham that he had frequently noticed that when the ponds were still covered with ice, the Teal would sit about, perhaps even for a day or two, and the thaw would come. Teal have always struck me as rather timid in captivity and do not come up to feed as readily as other ducks. This applies particularly to birds that have been caught in decoys and pinioned. Full winged wild Teal on the other hand come in to feed with pinioned birds and seem extraordinarily tame, but of course they know they can go at any moment.

Mallard are the most common ducks in the temperate parts of the World, and are represented by various sub-species. The male Common Mallard in breeding plumage is very handsome, and has the advantage that it will breed under almost any conditions if there is water. Another advantage is that Mallard have a very strong homing instinct. If kept full winged, and if reasonable conditions are observed (i.e. food obtainable and undue disturbances avoided) they will home and bring others with them. I have often seen them on the sea in the day time, but I doubt very much their standing up to weather that is quite tolerable to the sea-ducks.

If hand reared and left full winged and regularly fed, they become exceedingly tame and will land in a boat to take food. I remember some young cousins of mine many years ago arranged that they would get a new governess to go with them in a boat on a fair sized pond, one of three in a row connected by deep ditches. They took bread and whistled for the ducks, which came flying in, settled on the water, and then flew into the boat. Of course the unfortunate woman was soaked.



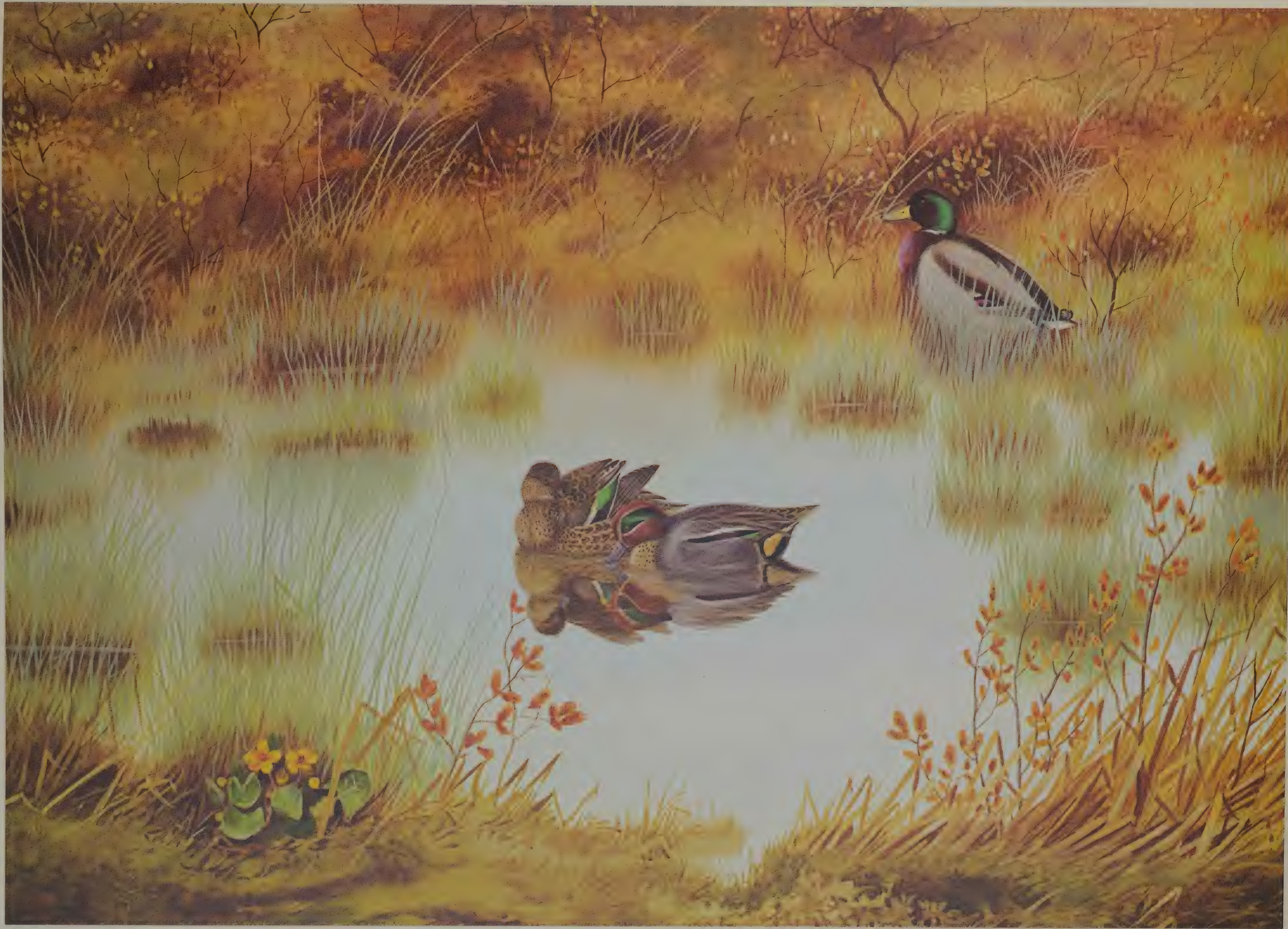


PLATE VI

THE LITTLE STRANGER
AMERICAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Anas crecca corolineasis

The Little Stranger (American Green-winged Teal) 1971

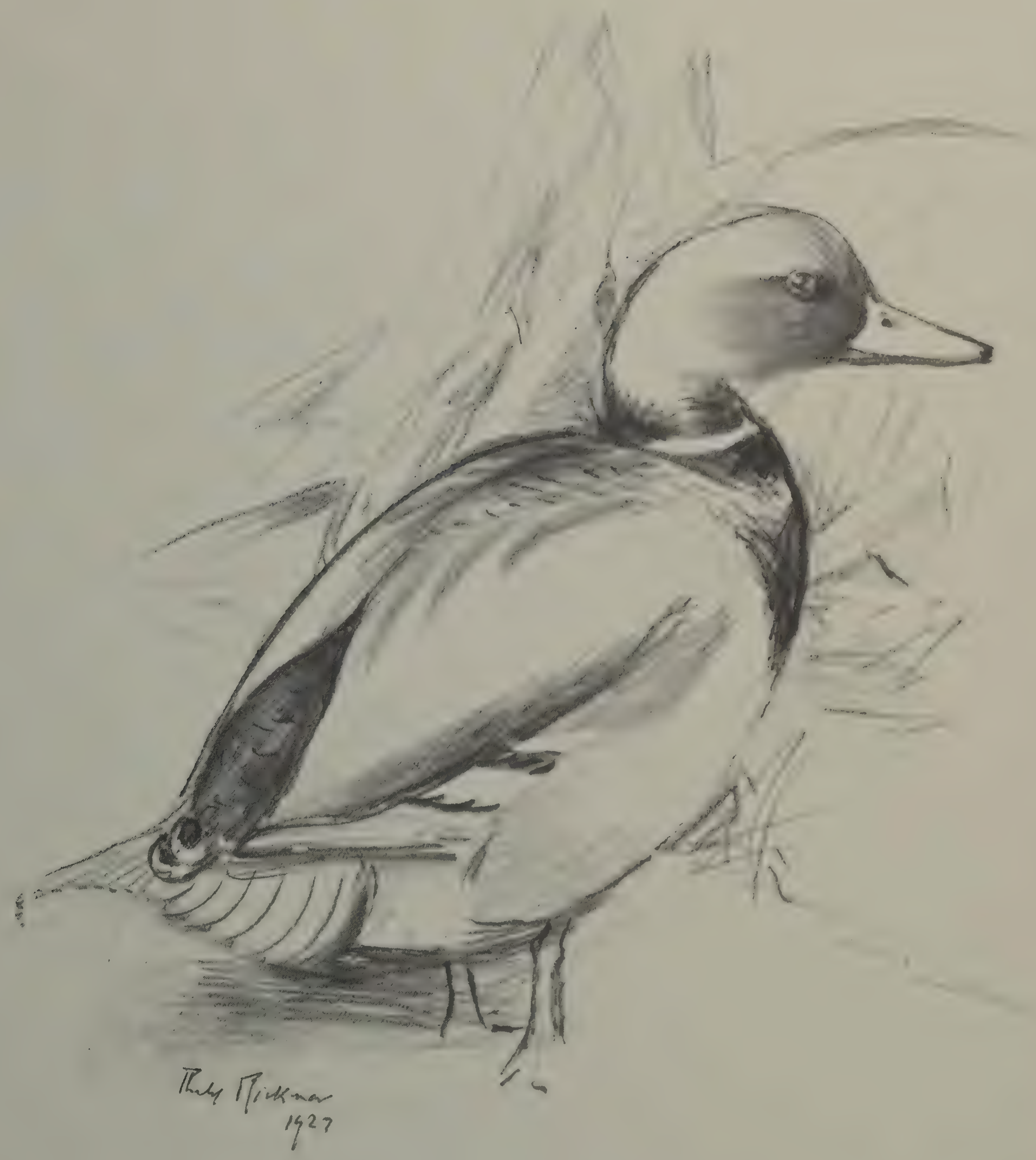
Anas crecca corolineasis/Aythya fuligula/Aythya ferina

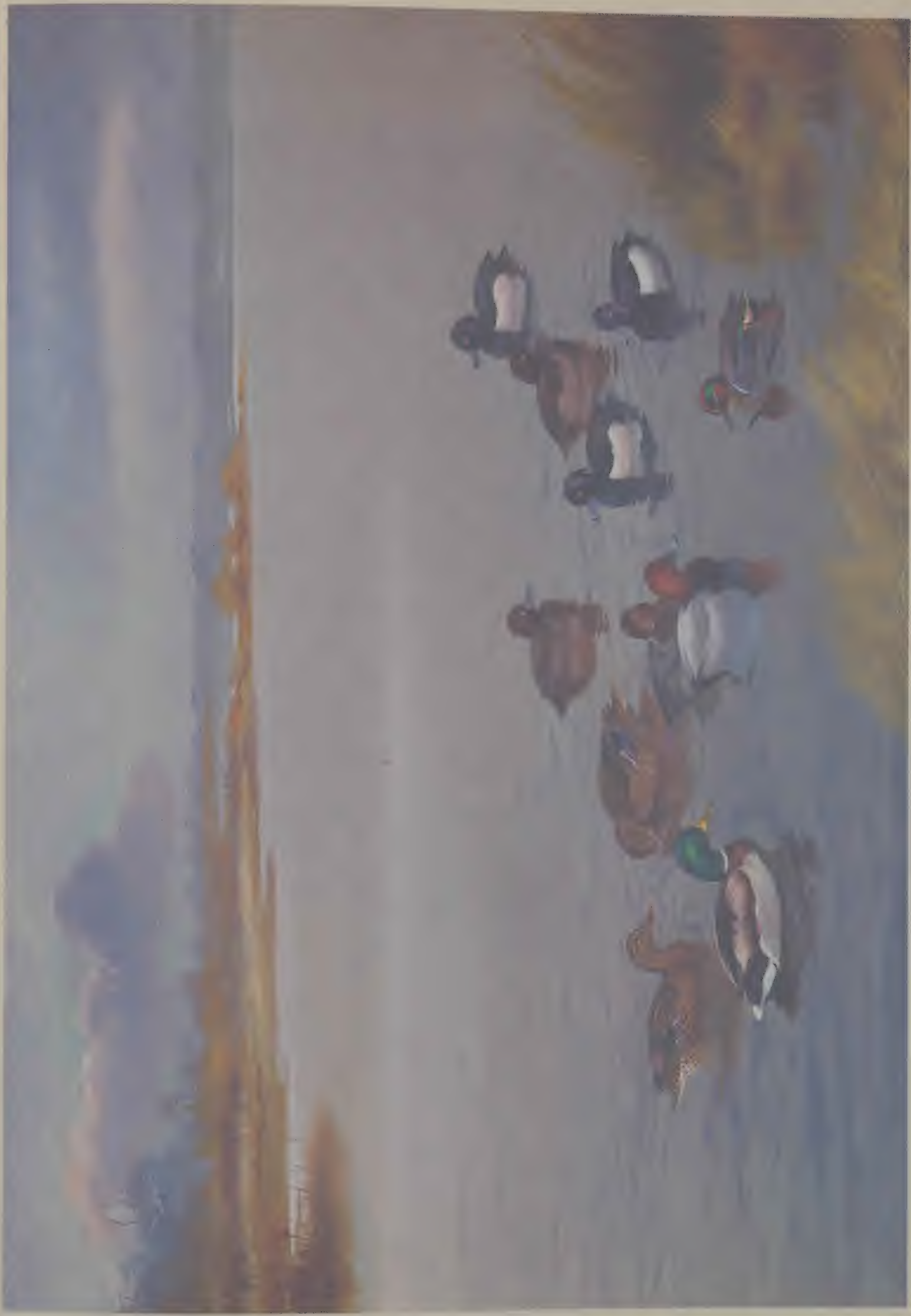
THE American Green-winged Teal is much the same size as the European but can be distinguished by the white crescent which is very obvious in life. Also the light edges to the eye stripe are not as evident. This varies; I have seen a colour photograph of this American Teal with pale facial markings almost as noticeable as in the European bird. The ducks are practicably indistinguishable. Incidentally the Teal seems to govern its crosses.

Tufted ducks are very showy attractive little birds and show up at a considerable distance. They will become quite tame and associate well with other ducks and consequently are very suitable for mixed collections. I have noticed that some drakes have longer crests than others, and I have no doubt, with selected breeding, drakes could be produced with very long crests.

Many full winged birds come to St. James' Park and the Serpentine and seem very tame there. I have often noticed that ducks seem to know where they are safe. I have seen full winged Teal fly in at feeding time and approach people feeding the other waterfowl quite close to the bank or shore.

The European Pochard are somewhat like Canvas-backs but less heavily made. Pochards breed in the British Isles. They can be seen on any sheet of water that is quiet and can provide food, particularly water insects and molluscs. They are partial to waters which have a depth of about 12 feet and are undisturbed. They are shy birds, flying well when they have got under way. The courtship consists of males blowing out their necks with head and neck lying along the water. They are rather heavy-looking birds for their size; their bills are black with a grey band in the middle. The red of the eyes is a prominent feature and seems more brilliant possibly owing to the dilation of the pupil.





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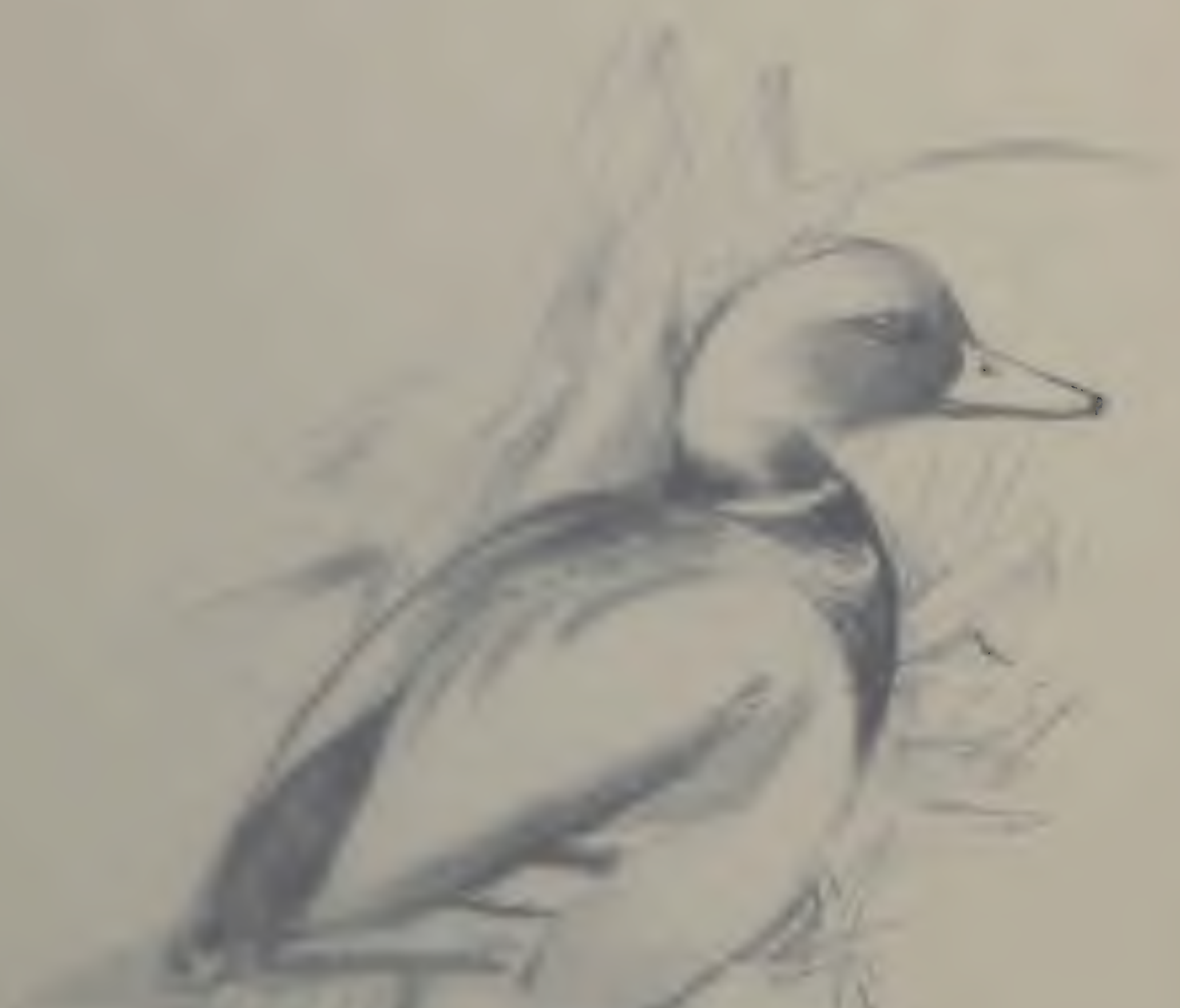


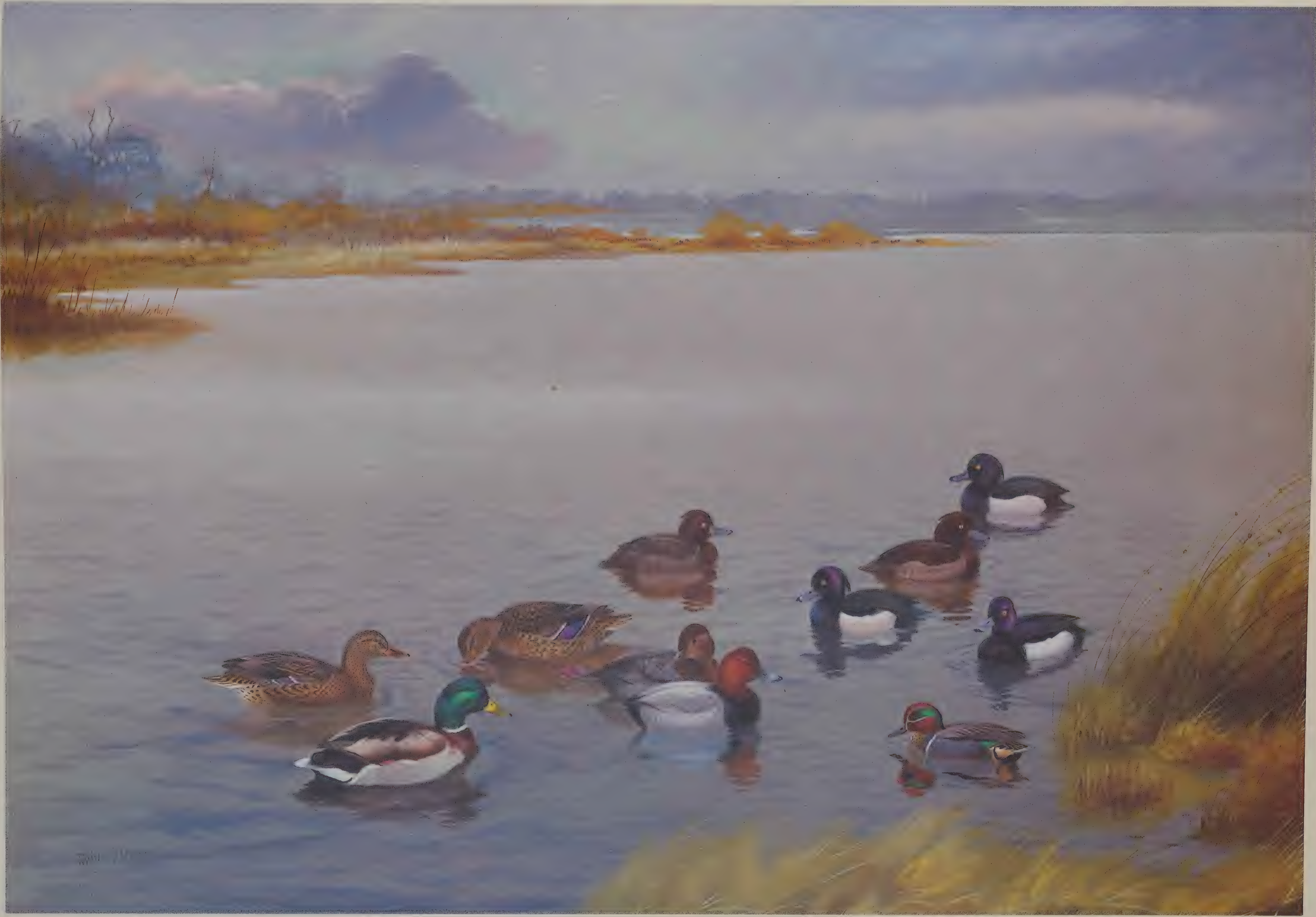


PLATE VII

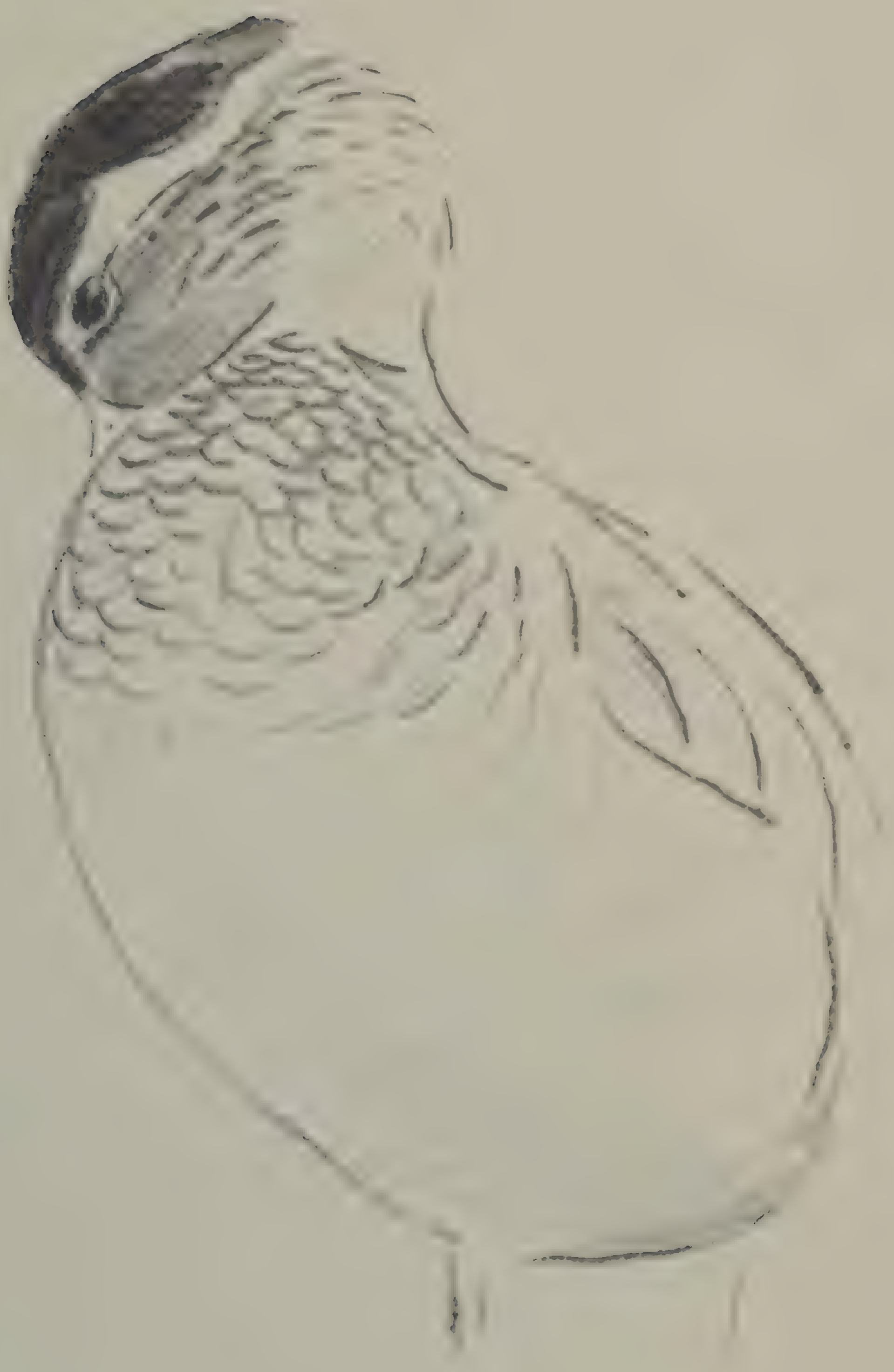
A PAIR OF GARGANEYS

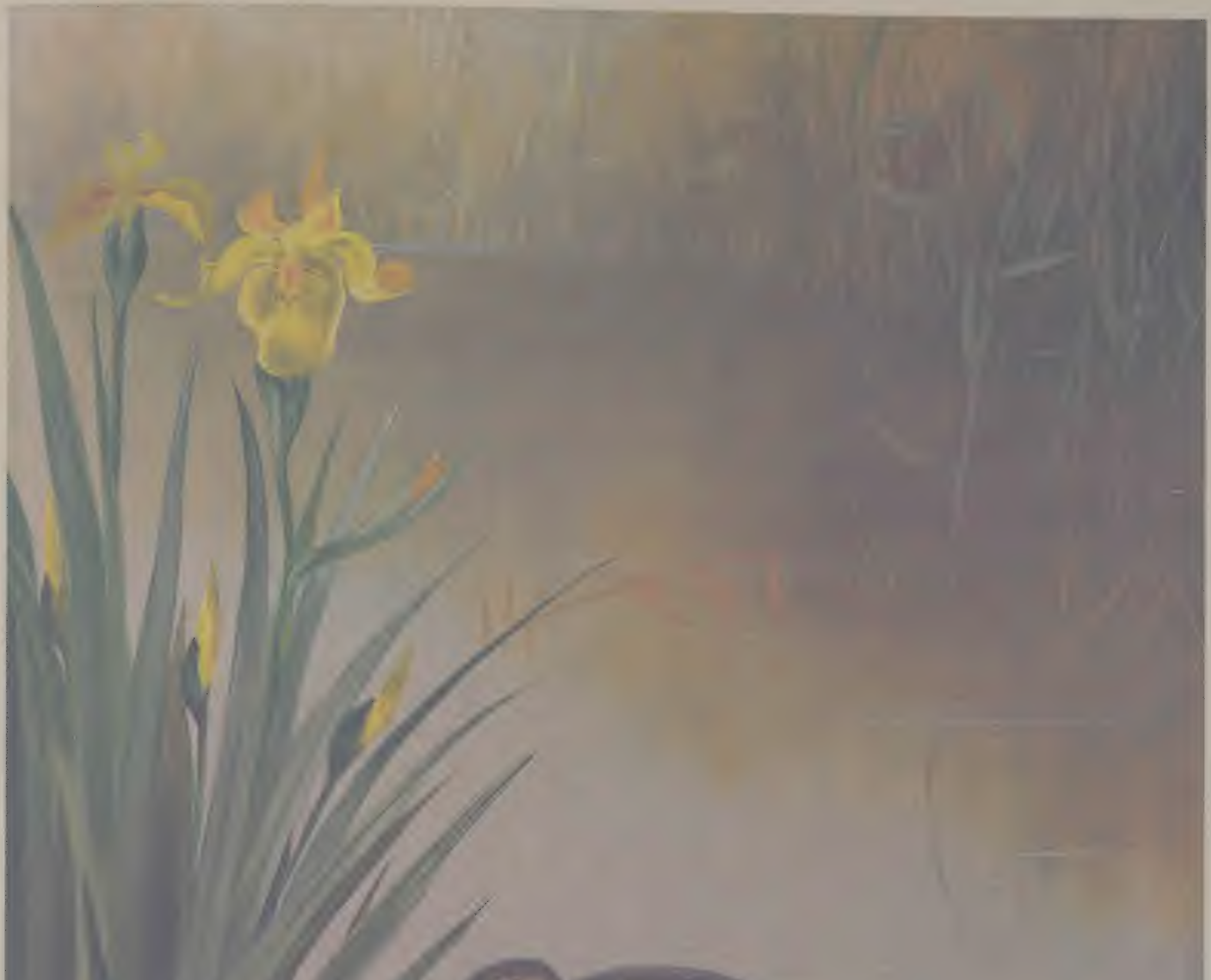
Anas querquedula

A Pair of Garganey 1962
Anas querquedula

GARGANEY belong to the Teal family. They are quiet and do not interfere with other ducks, and can be detected at a considerable distance by the broad white stripes running from the eye to the nape.

Garganey are migratory, and arrive in this country in the spring and depart before the autumn to Africa; consequently they feel extreme cold. When displaying to the ducks the drakes hold the feathers of the head so as to broaden the white line. I have noticed this habit in other birds with white markings; when male woodpigeons display to the females the white marks on the neck become very prominent.





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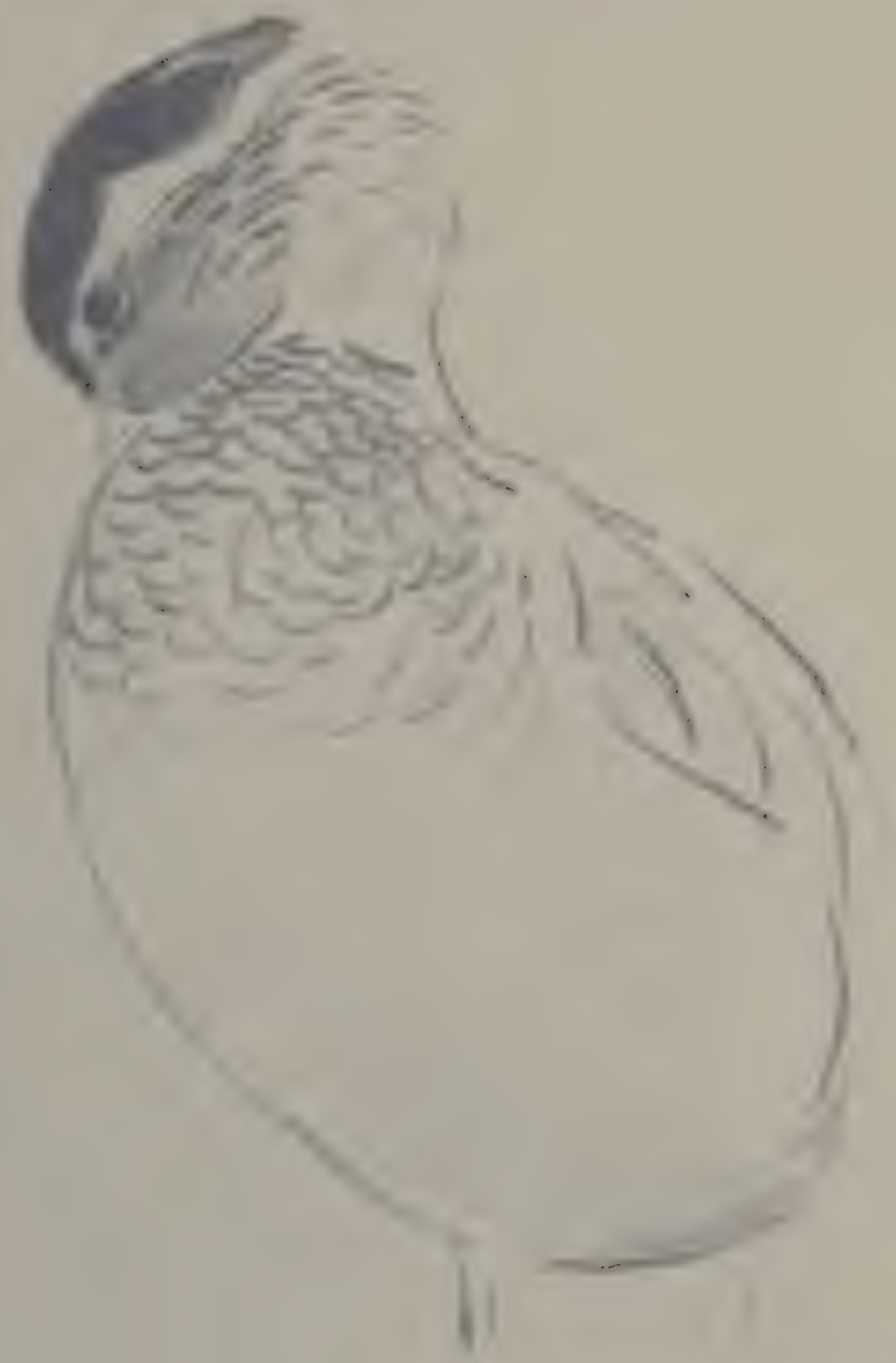


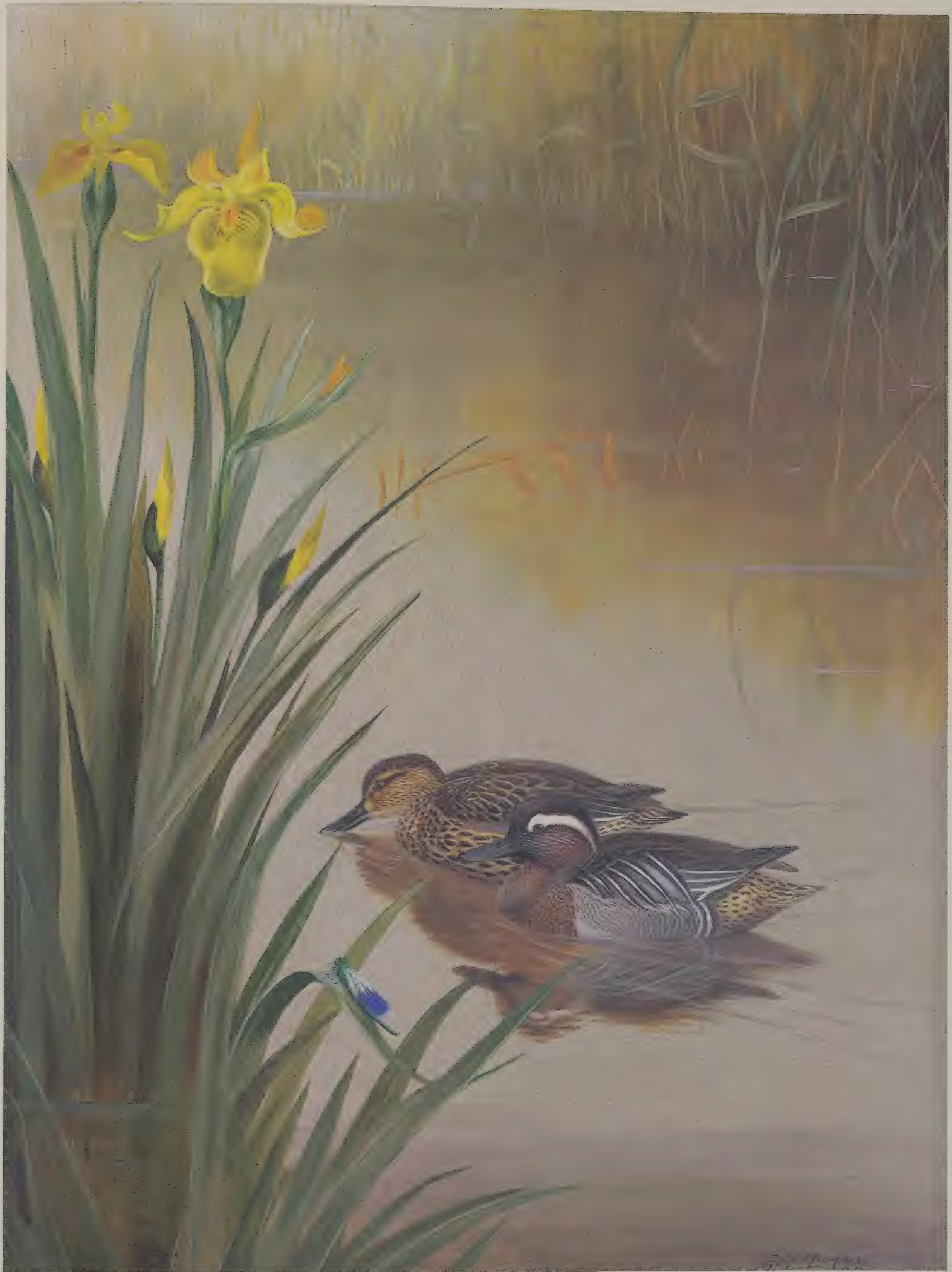


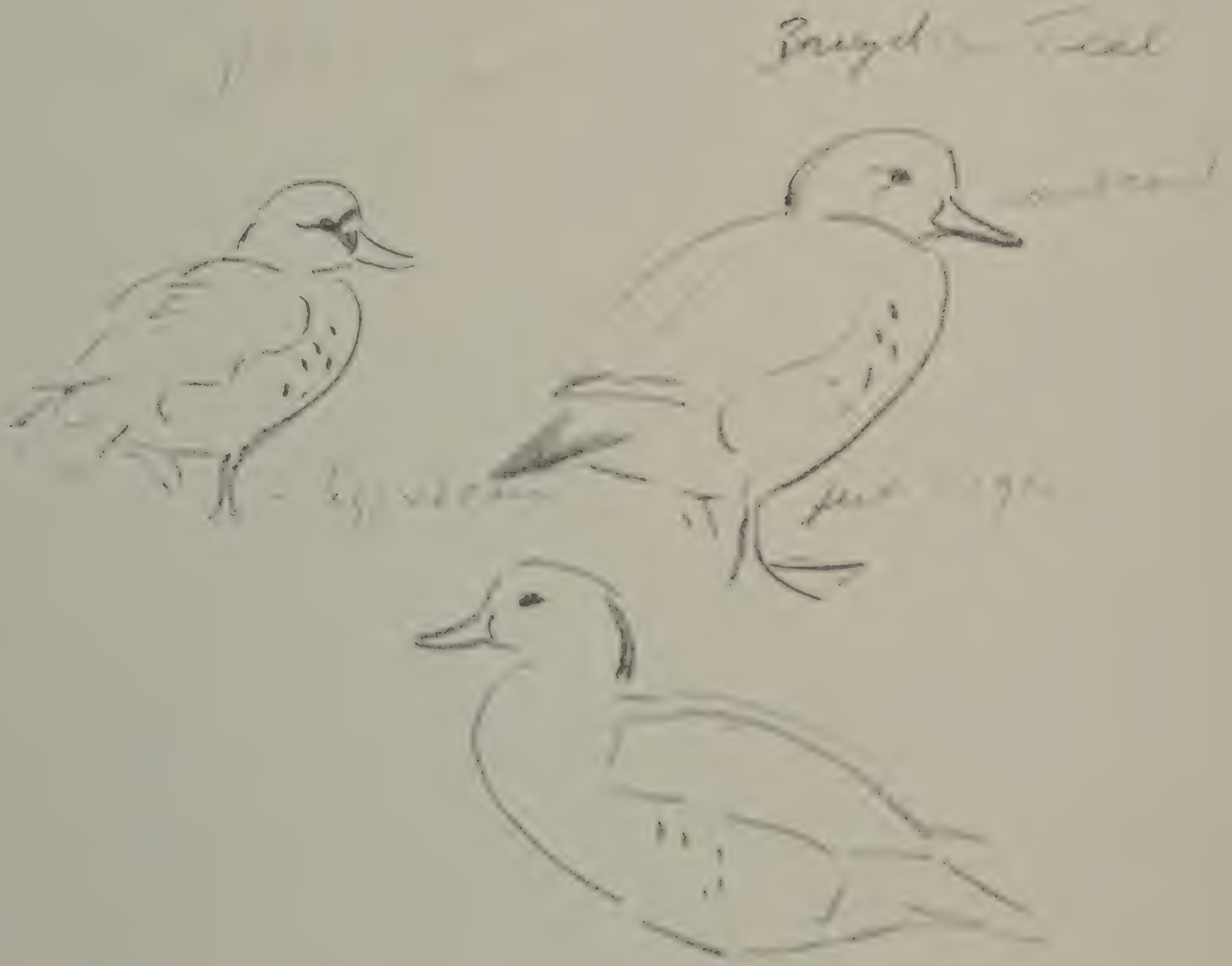
PLATE VIII

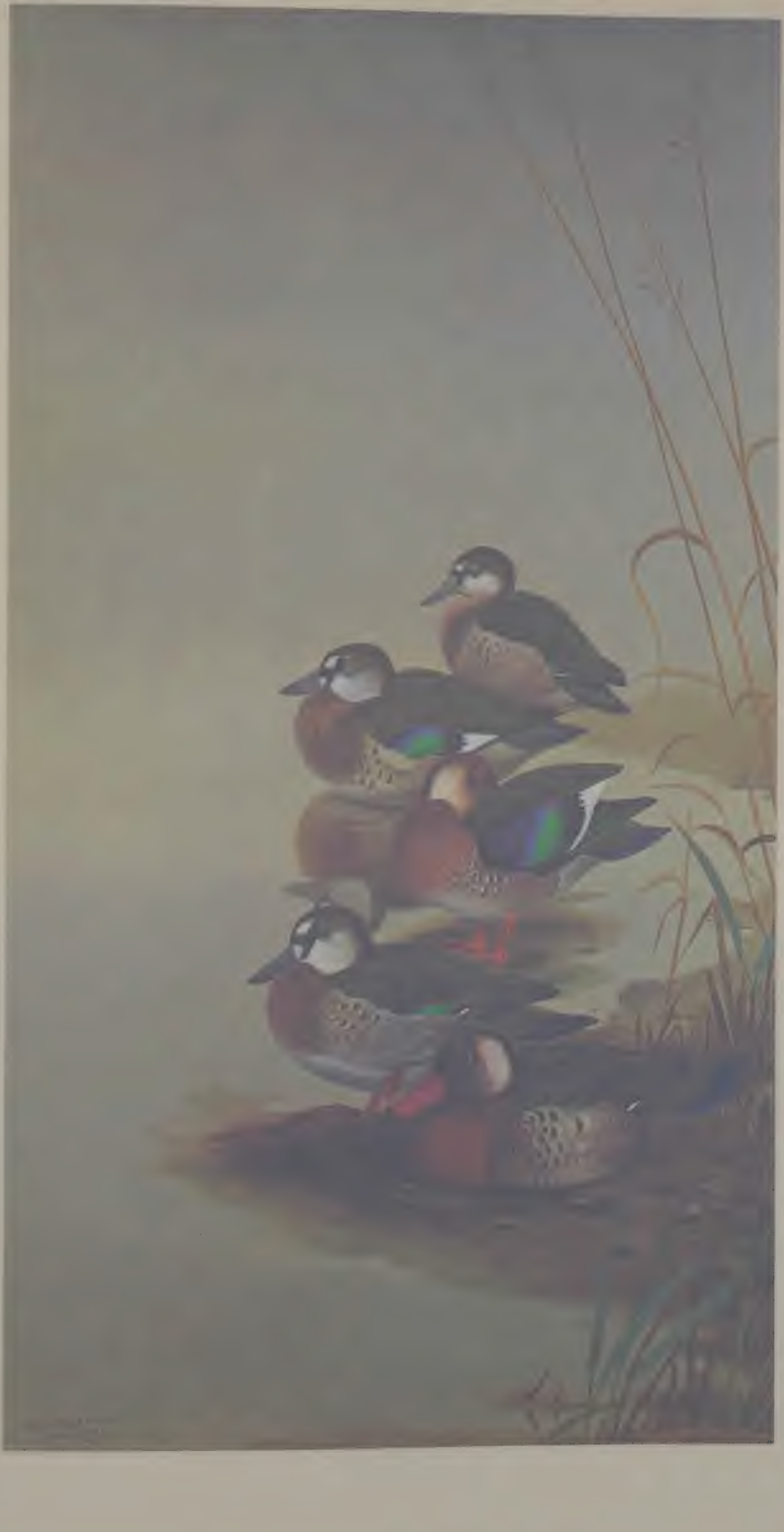
BRAZILIAN TEAL

Amazonetta brasiliensis

Brazilian Teal 1967
Amazonetta brasiliensis

THESE ducks at first sight may seem to be rather dull in colour, but in flight or when stretching their wings the very brilliant speculum is most attractive. The birds in the plate have been taken from sketches at Walcot, and were chosen because they show the brilliant colours of the speculum to advantage. I do not know of any duck's wing that can compete with Brazilian Teal for wing colour.





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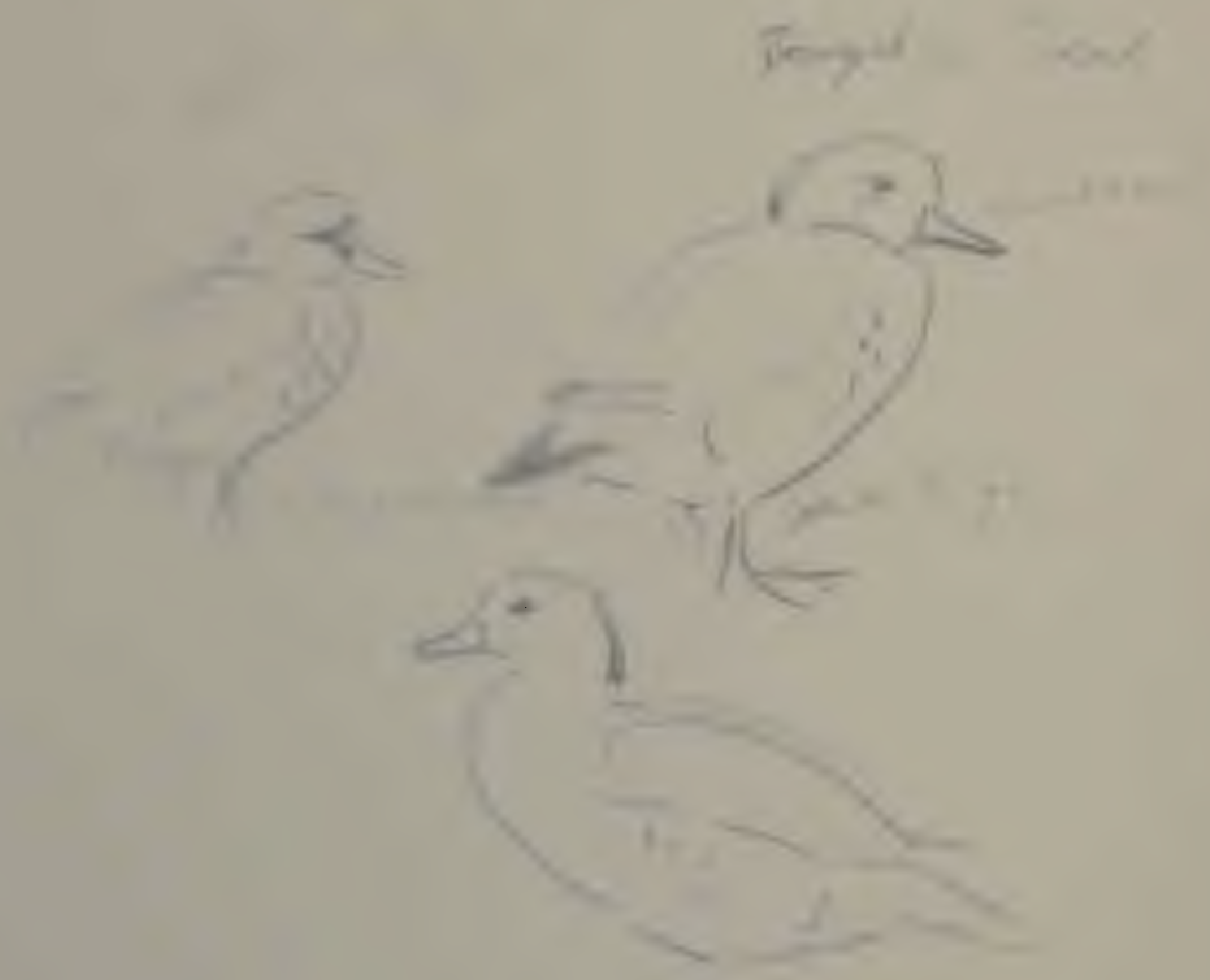


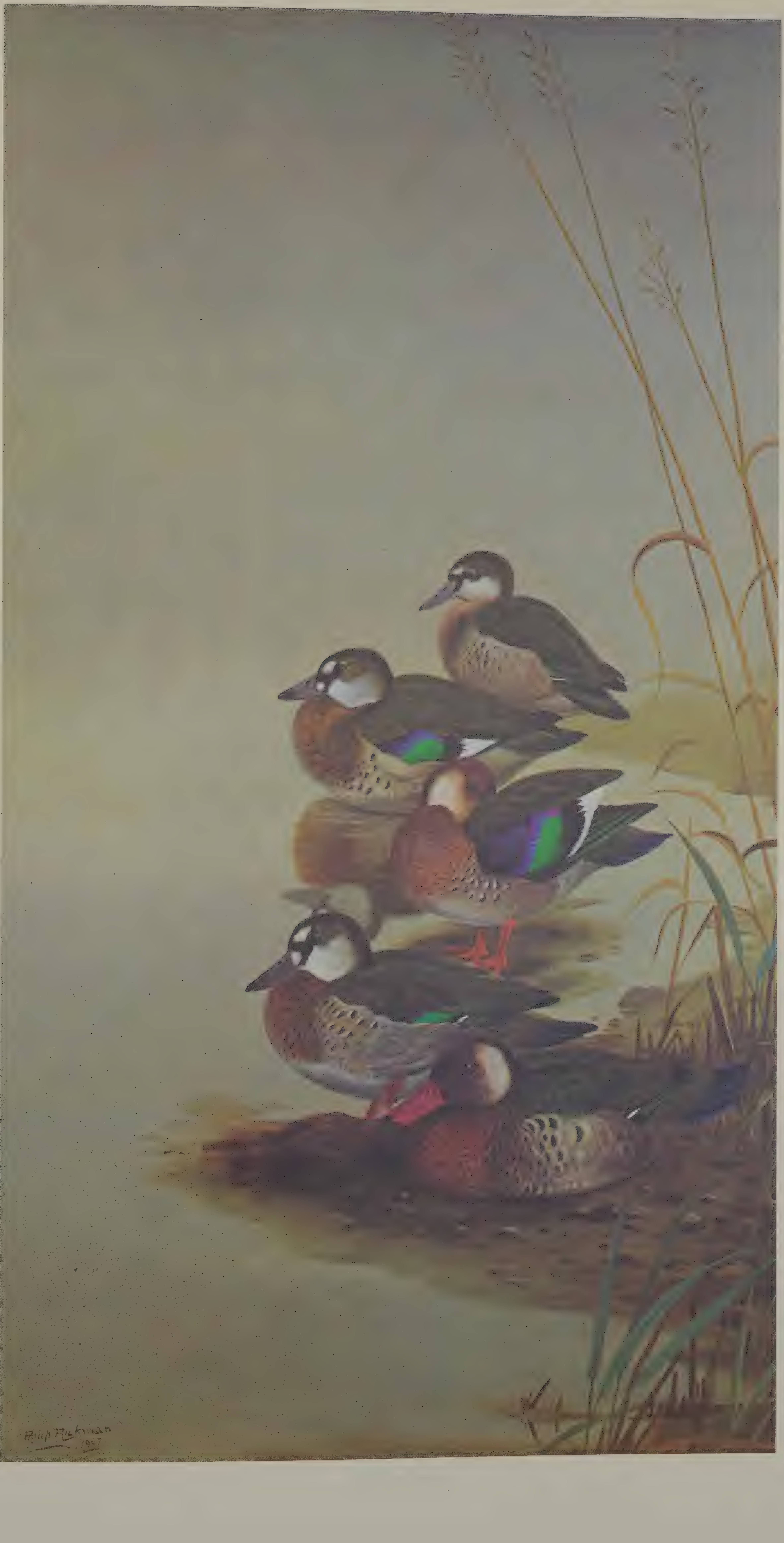

Philip Rickman
1907

PLATE IX

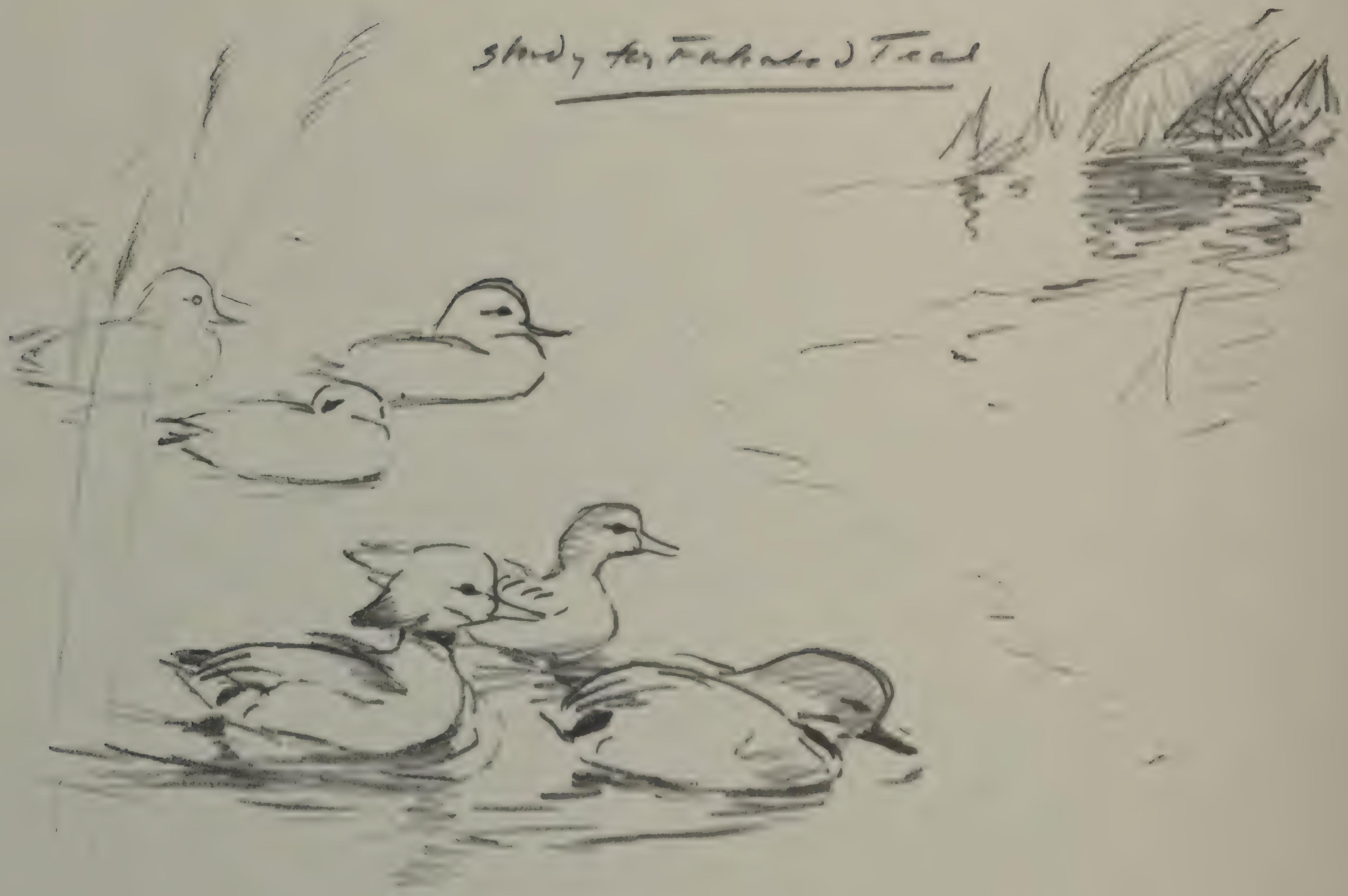
FALCATED DUCK

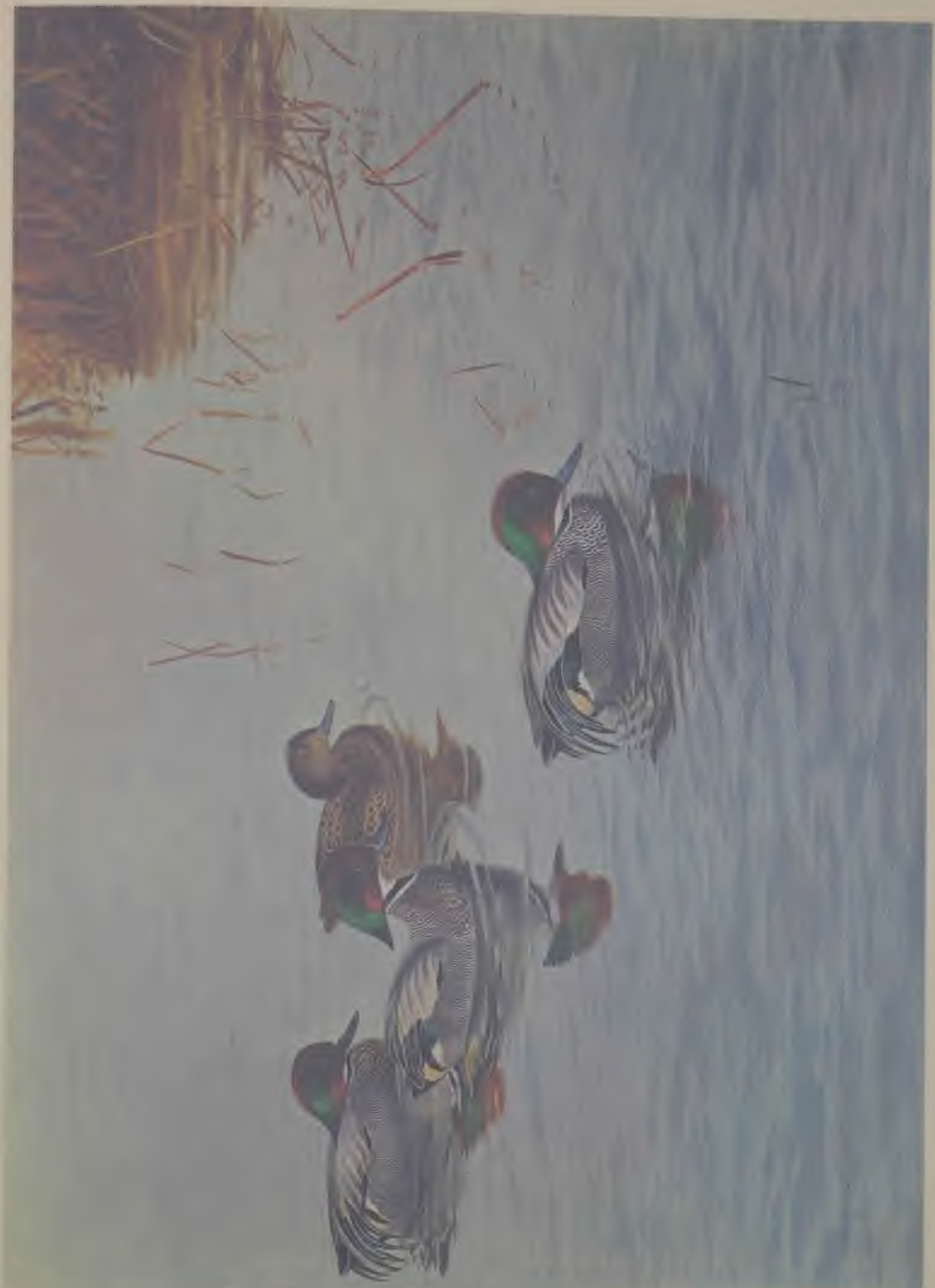
Anas falcata

Falcated Duck 1955
Anas falcata

THIS is one of the most attractive of all the ducks, in spite of its extremely short tail which gives it a rather stumpy look at times. I have noticed that the very long sickle-shaped tertiaries vary in different birds; some birds wear these touching or almost touching the water. In full sun the brilliant copper and green heads are most striking.

Many years ago the late Hugh Wormald remarked to me that he thought that Falcated Teal were more nearly related to Gadwall than Teal. This is also referred to in *Waterfowl of the World* (Delacour & Scott) and would seem to be accepted; they are said to breed in Transbaikalia and Eastern Siberia. These ducks breed readily under suitable conditions. There is no doubt in my mind that Falcated Teal are a most desirable duck to keep in captivity, beautiful in colours, quiet in disposition and give no trouble.





Falcated Duck 1955

Anas falcata

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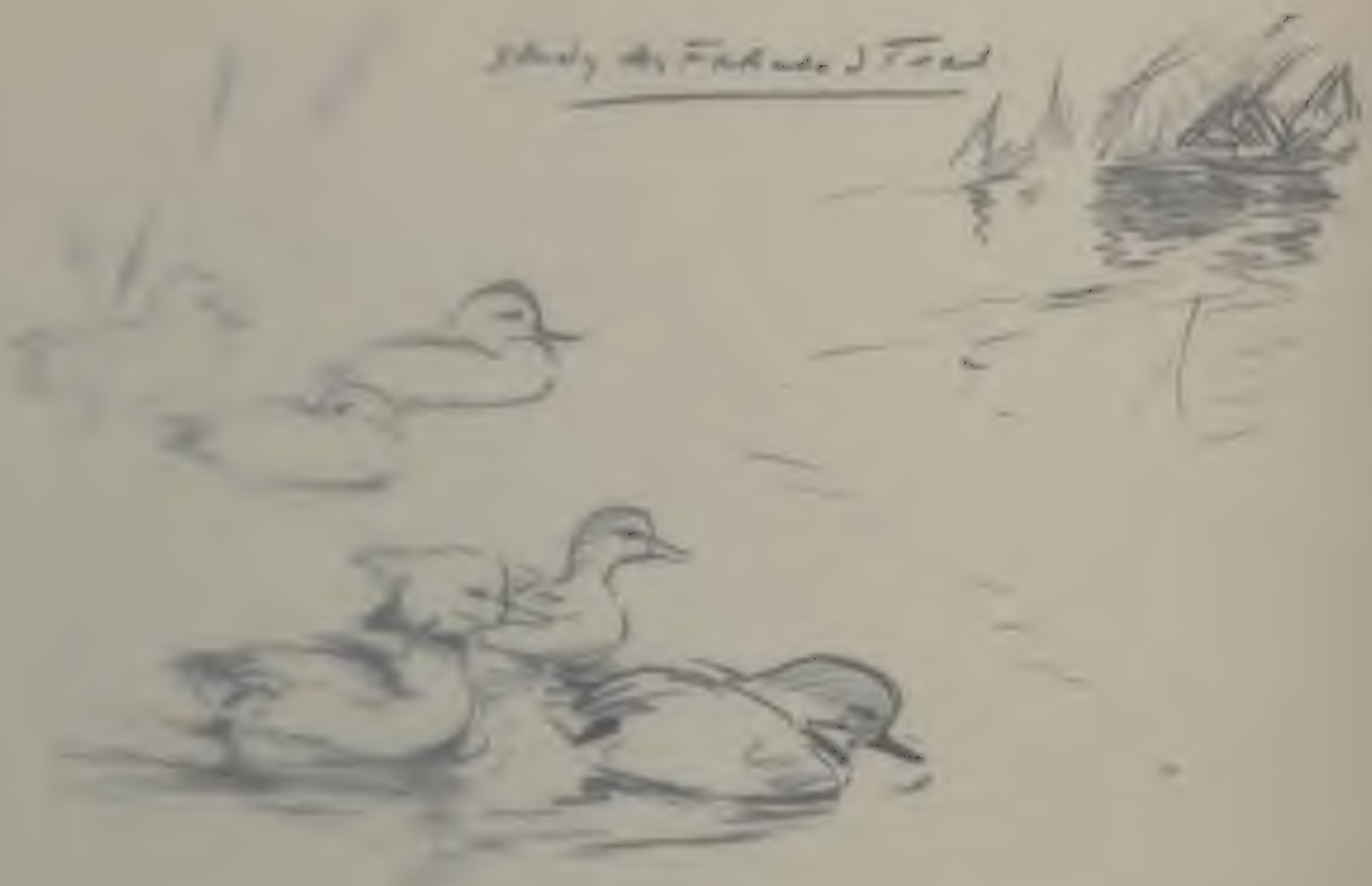


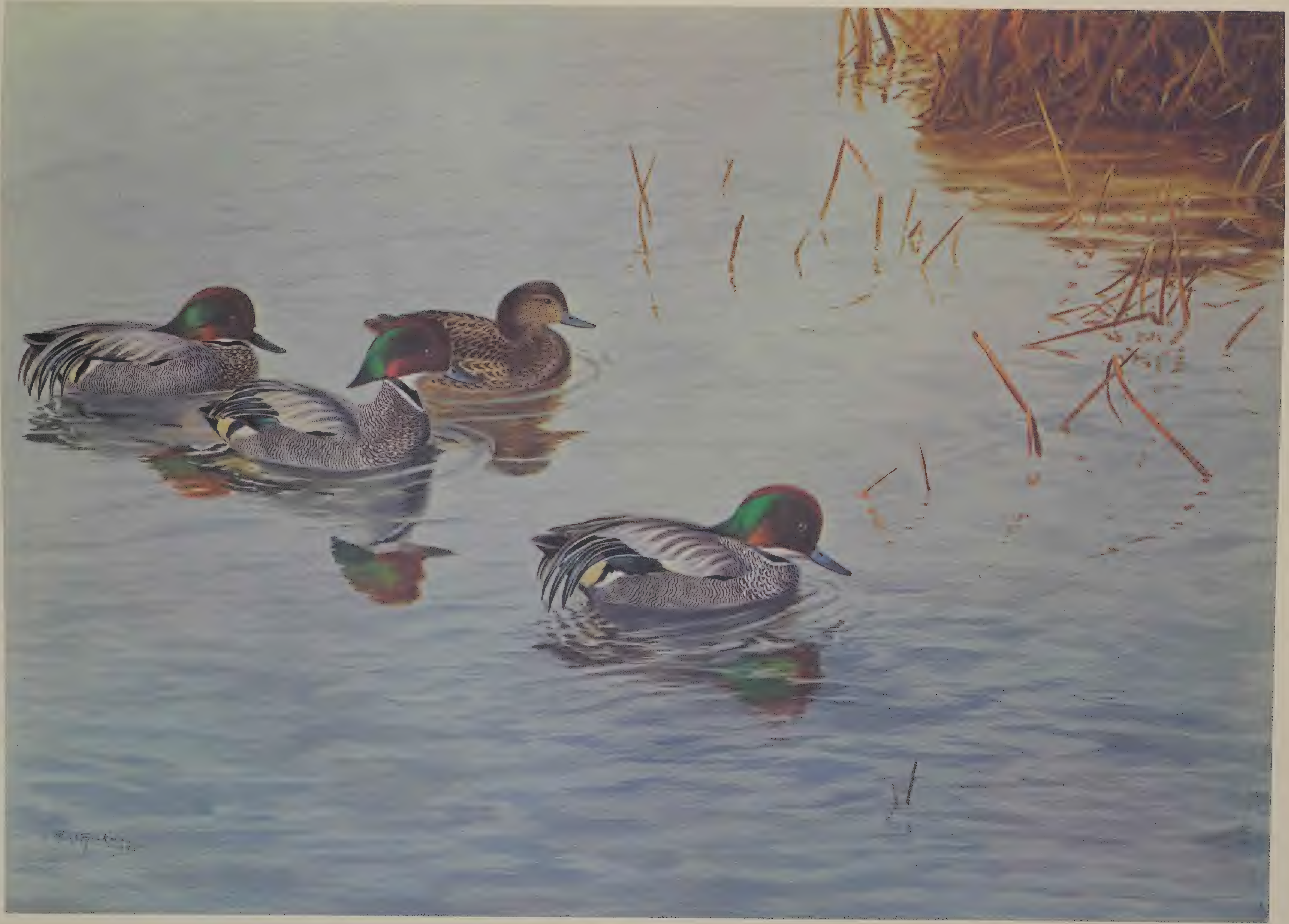


PLATE X

PINTAIL

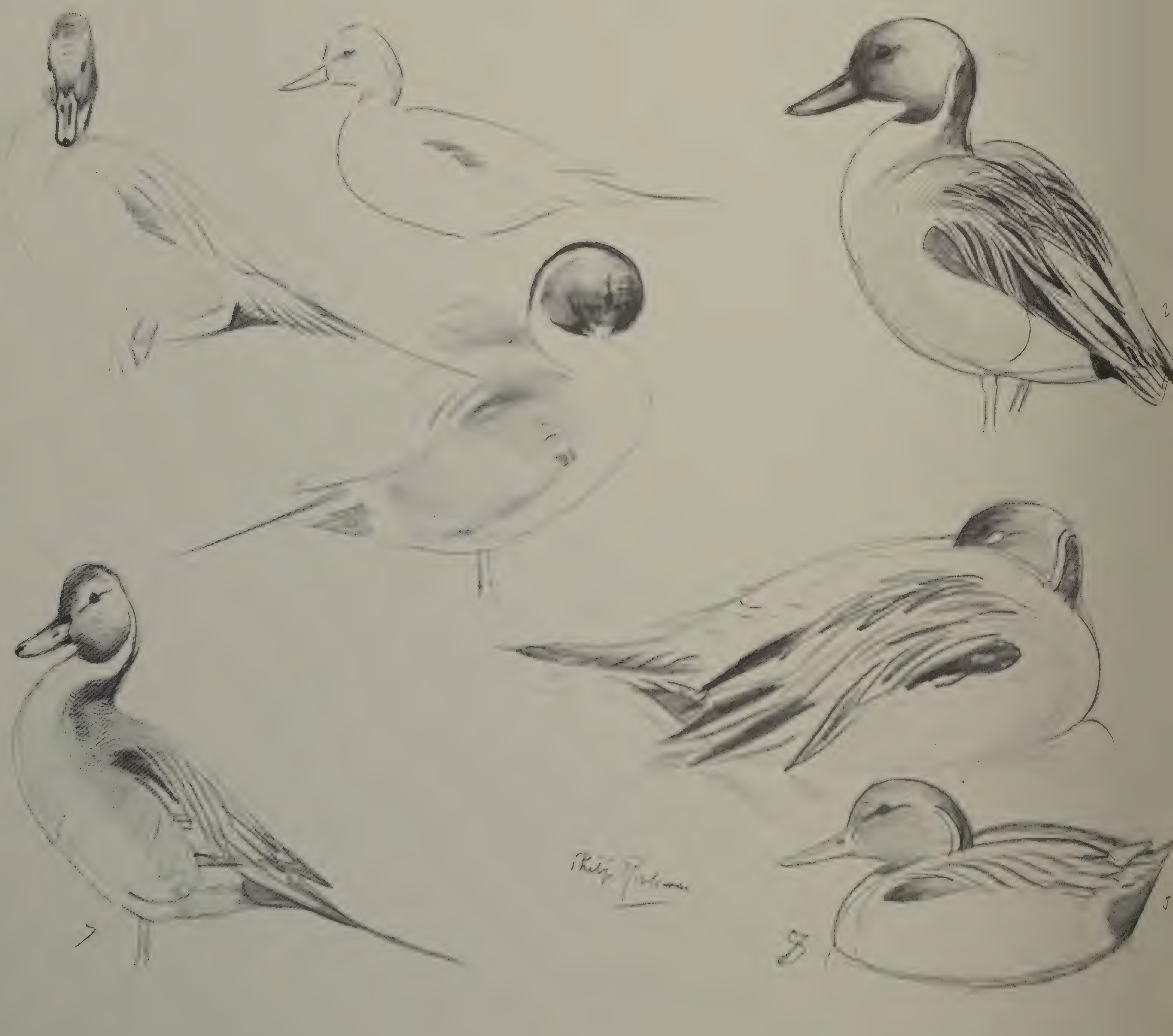
Anas acuta acuta

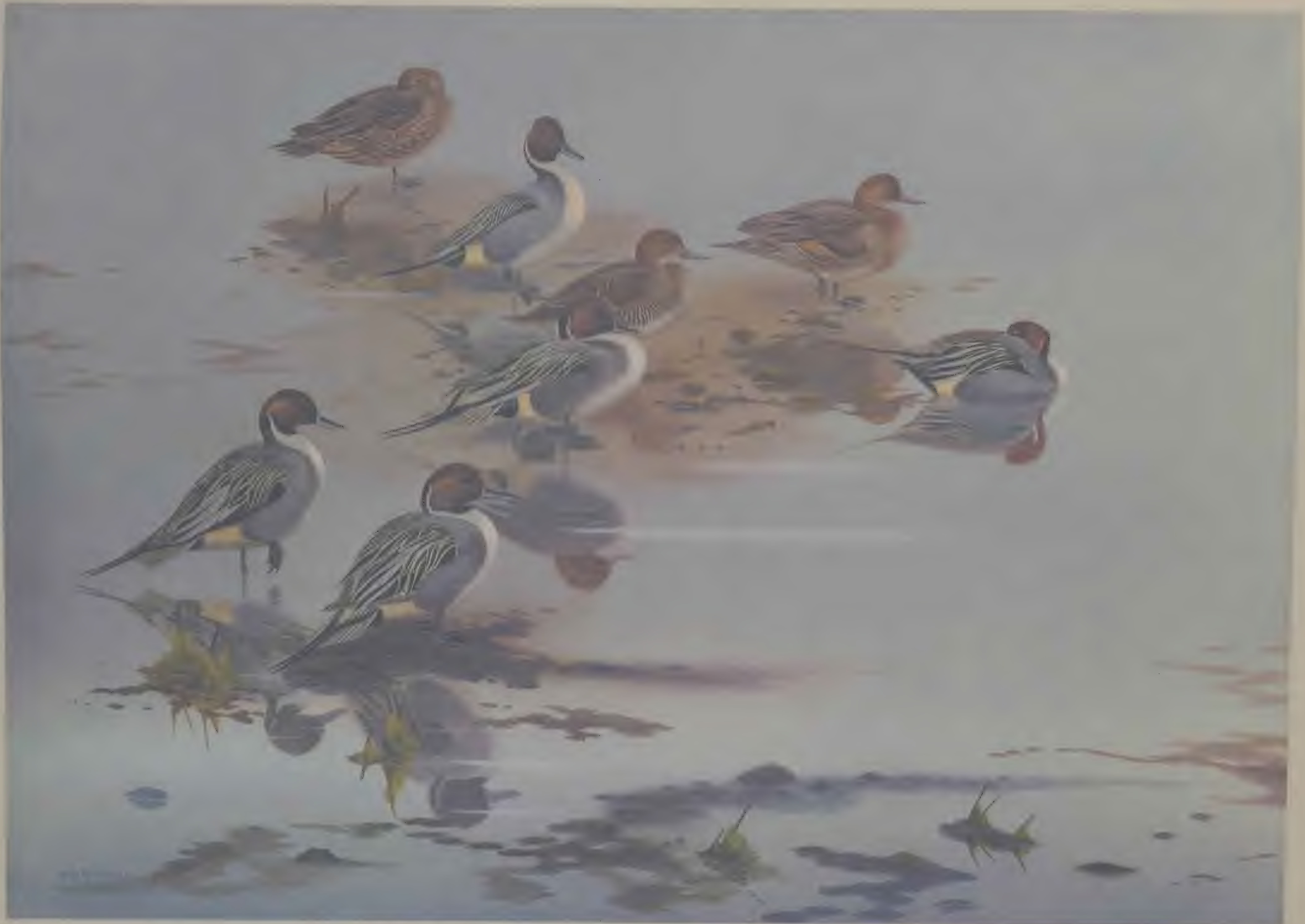
Pintail 1954

Anas acuta acuta

PINTAIL are perhaps the most elegant of all the ducks; the Common Pintail holds its own well with the various races, Bahamas, Chilean etc. I have often seen large rafts of Pintail on the Scottish Firths. In captivity they lose much of the shyness so noticeable in the wild state and have increased as breeding birds in suitable parts of the country. I have found several nests at Boturich on Loch Lomond. Courtship consists of drakes swimming round a duck, lowering the breast and raising hind part of the body and emitting a trilling sort of whistle something like that of drake Teal.

The late Sir Richard Graham tried crossing several of the common surface feeding ducks with Mallard hoping that the homing instinct of Mallard might be transmitted to the progeny; I do not remember how successful the experiment was. As is generally the case the drakes of these matings were mules but the ducks would breed quite often. Teal seem to govern their crosses. Drake Pintails have an individual way of carrying the long scapulars and this – if a number of birds are seen at once and of course sufficiently close – is very noticeable; all differ to a considerable degree. The white markings on the scapulars of drake Shovelers also vary in width and some birds show a great deal of white in the region. The observer needs to be near, and with a number of drakes on view at a time, for this difference to be noticeable.





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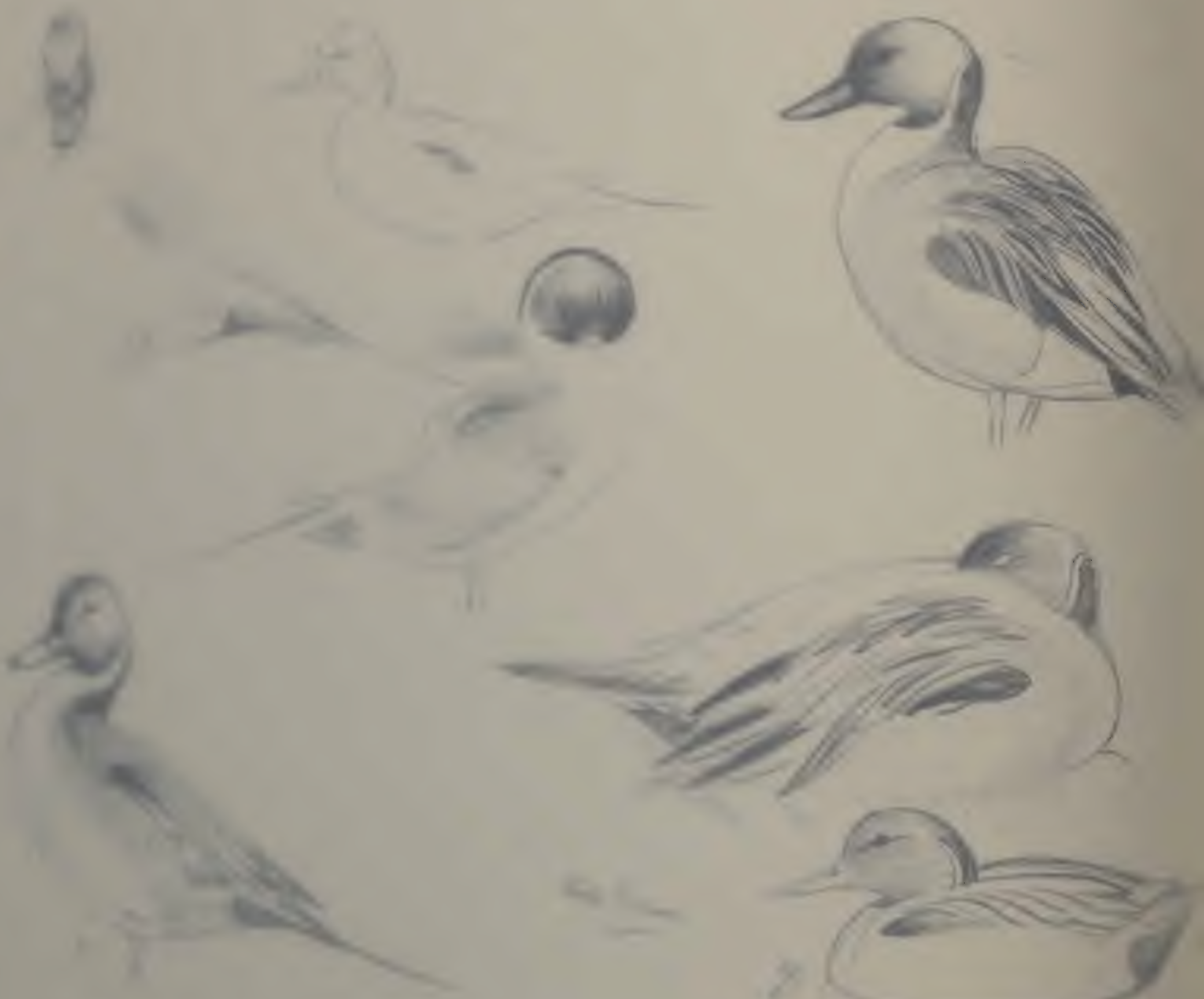


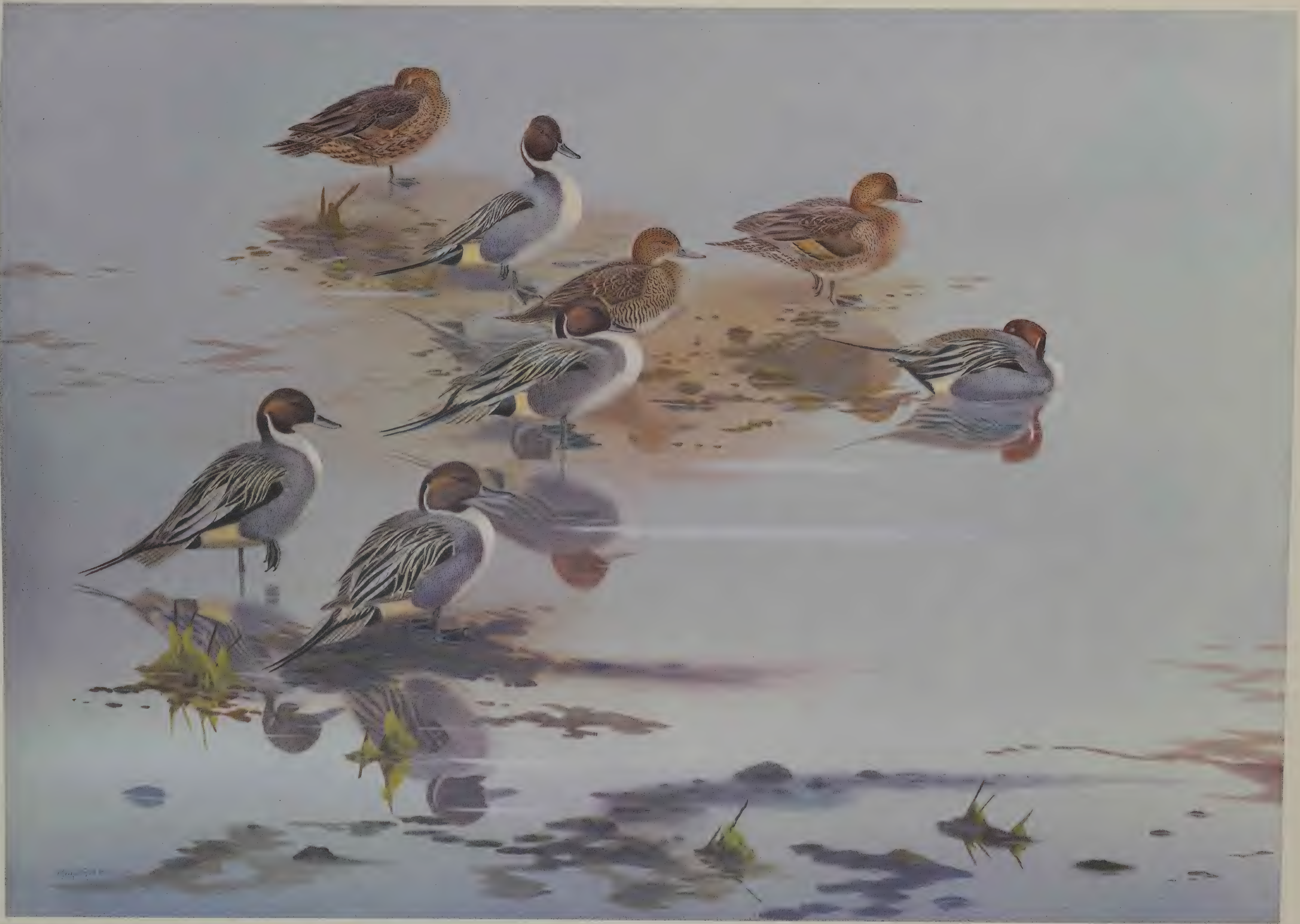


PLATE XI

A THAW
SHOVELERS, COMMON SNIPE AND JACK SNIPE

Anas clypeata/Capella gallinago/Lymnocryptes minimus

A Thaw, (Shovelers, Common and Jack Snipe) 1955
Anas clypeata/Capella gallinago/Lymnocripter minimus

THERE are five species of Shoveler all of which have been kept in various collections. These are of course all surface feeders but they are capable of diving. I remember seeing common Shovelers diving at Bentley, when various water plants had been secured and weighted to go to the bottom, where is was hoped that they would take root and provide more insectiverous life. The Shovelers discovered somehow that this had been done, and dived frequently at the various places, finding animal food there and the experiment was a failure. I think that the only way that this could be successfully done would be to put the plants in wire cages weighted to stay on the bottom.

Pairs often fly round in the spring, and quite frequently an unattached drake will join in. Shoveler drakes are very handsome ducks and very good fliers. As has been suggested above, Shovelers are avid for insect and animal food, and often can be found on small and rather unsavoury pieces of water. It is not a duck that I would care to eat. In India they can at times be found in very large flocks with Pintails and a sprinkling of Teal.

The South American Shoveler which is not so attractively coloured and is of a reddish hue except for the wings which are blue, and has a pale buffish head, have much longer tails which they carry slanting upwards. This is very marked if the two species are seen together.

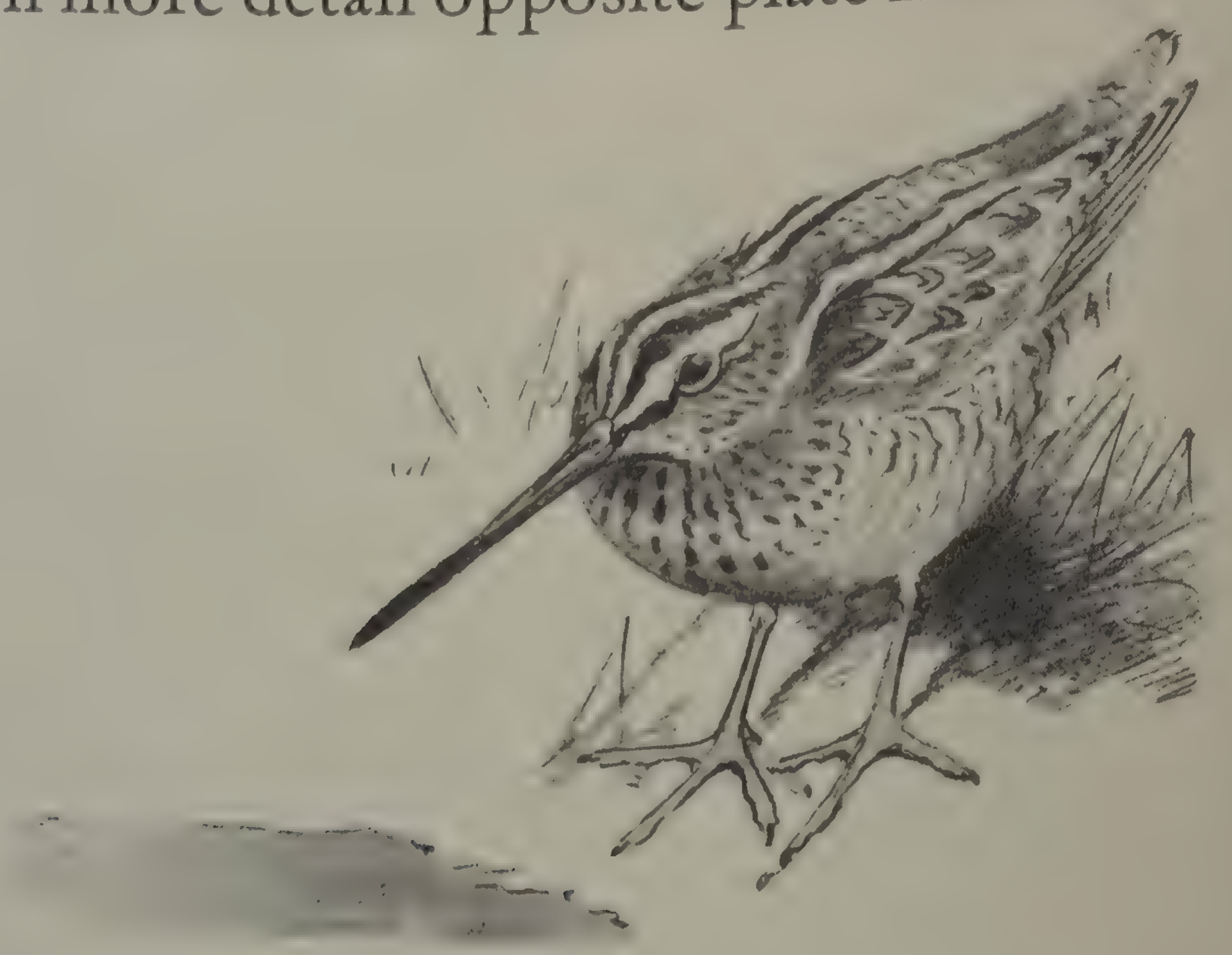
I have often watched Shovelers on the bog between Lochs Rescobie and Dalgavies in Angus. Years ago when the bog was being shot, one of the beaters began to sink in a very soft spot. A ladder was always kept handy to avoid any trouble of this kind; while this was being brought to the place, the man – against all advice – kept struggling instead of putting his arms out and keeping still. The head keeper shouted "you'll no be getting her ladyship's tea tomorrow I am thinking".

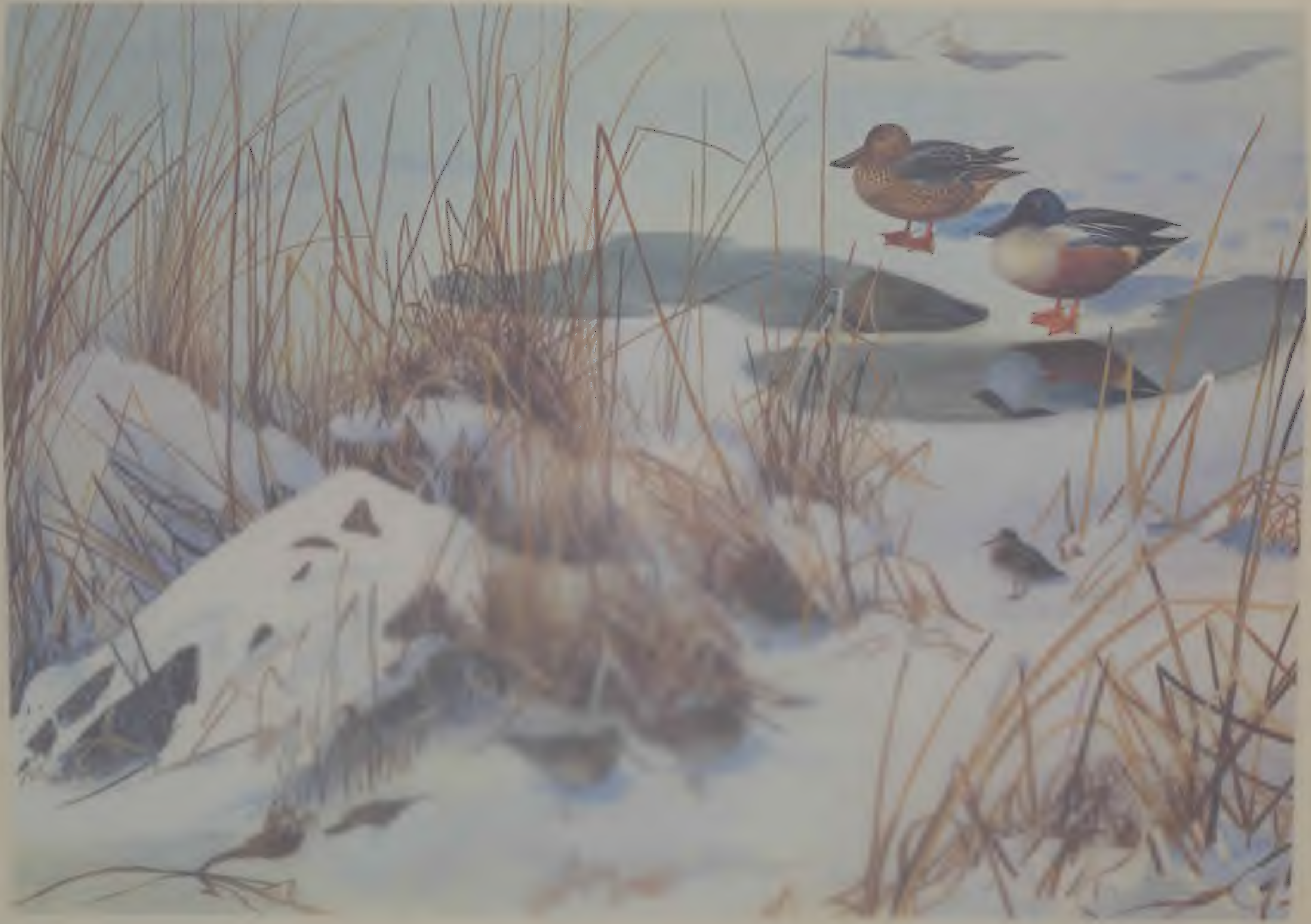
The Common Snipe is found in varying numbers on suitable ground, such as marshes and bogs with pools; the main desiderative being that it be wet, and consequently soft, ground in which they can probe their very senstitive bills.

Snipe breed commonly in the British Isles and of course Ireland. The males fly over their nesting territories rising to a height, and as they descend will be seen to have the the tail fully spread, the outermost feathers extending more than the others (if viewed through a glass there is quite a distance between these feathers and the rest of the tail). I have noticed that just in front of the eyes the feathers are more like short bristles; this may be a protection to their eyes.

There have been in the past many discussions as to how the drumming or throbbing noise is produced. Some still argue that it is partially vocal; the late George Lodge, a very excellent observer, maintained that the birds shiver their wings on the downward swoop and that this must help the bleaking noise. I remember seeing a bird with a gap in one wing and its performance seemed to be less good.

The Jack Snipe, as can be seen by the plate, is smaller than the Common Snipe and close to is a beautiful little bird. It is described in more detail opposite plate XXVII.





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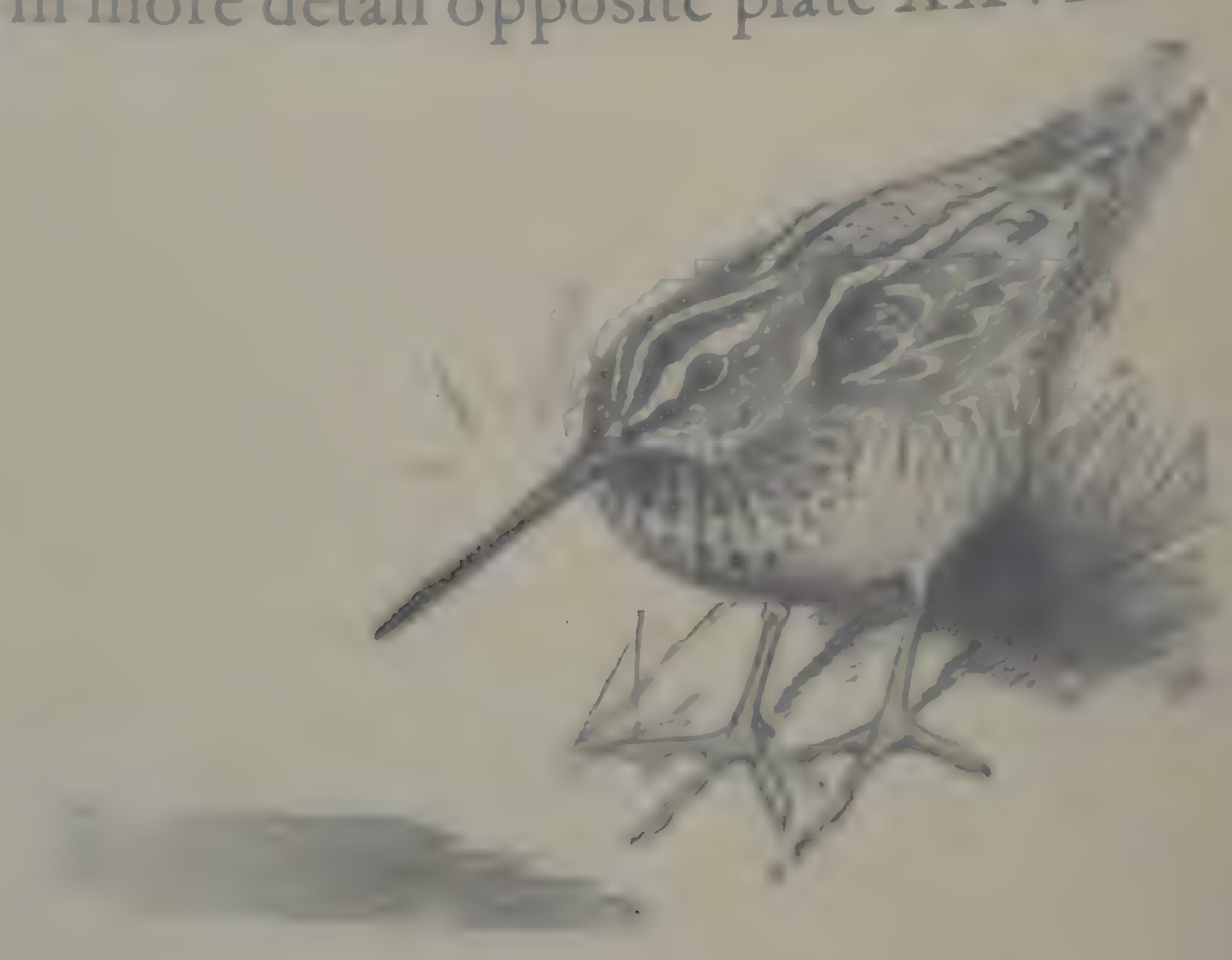


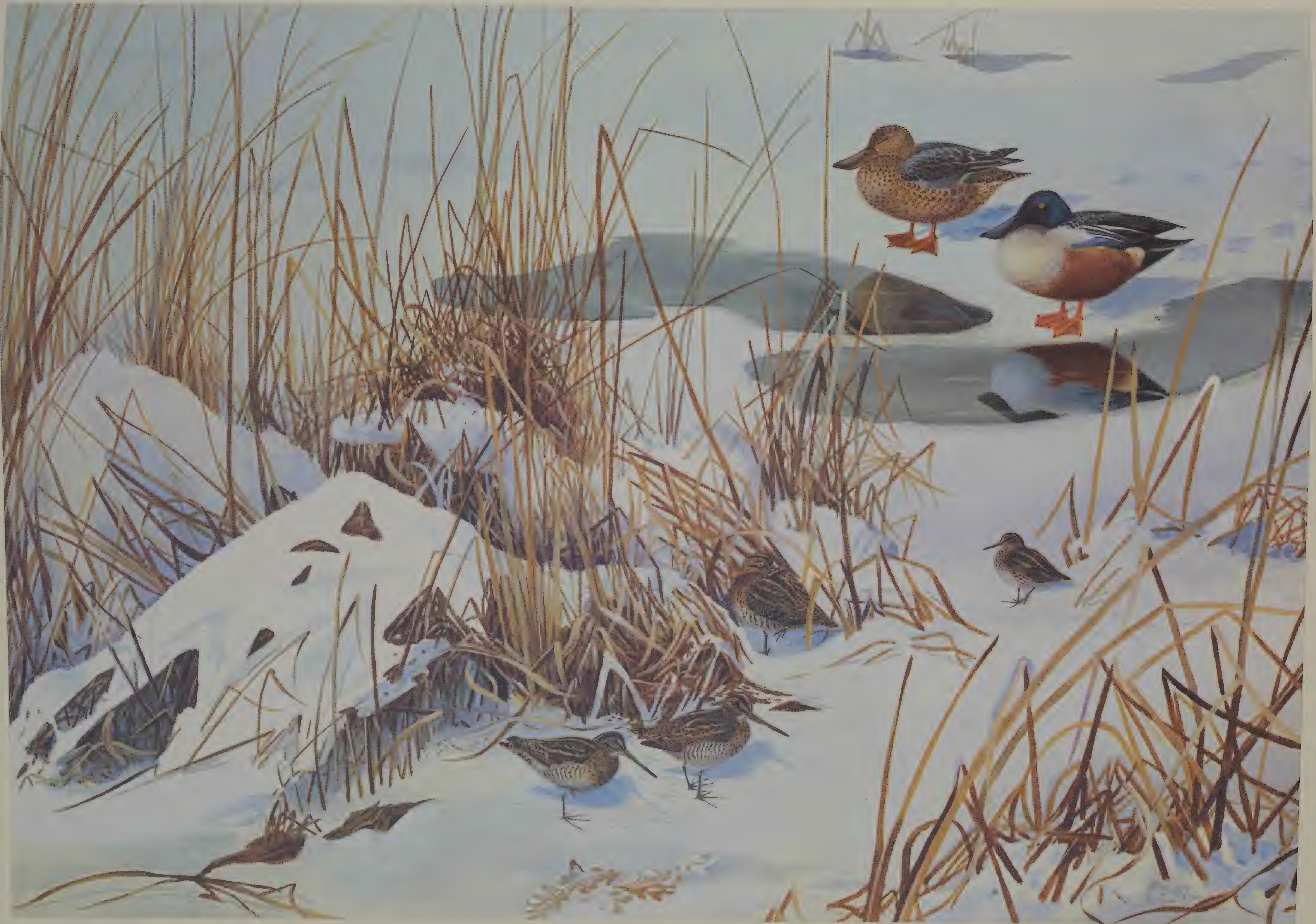


PLATE XII

A PHASE IN THE DISPLAY OF THE MANDARIN

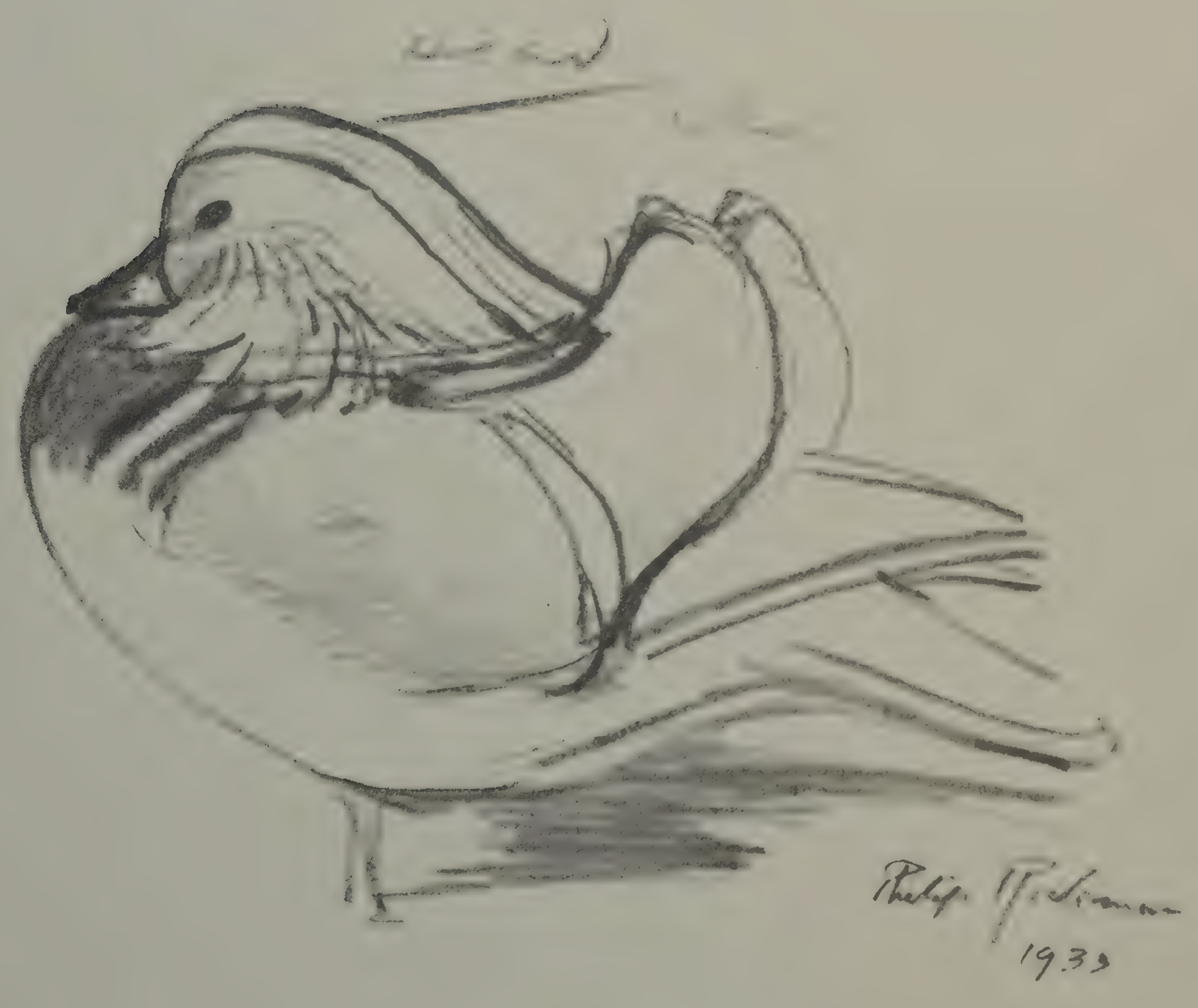
Aix galericulata

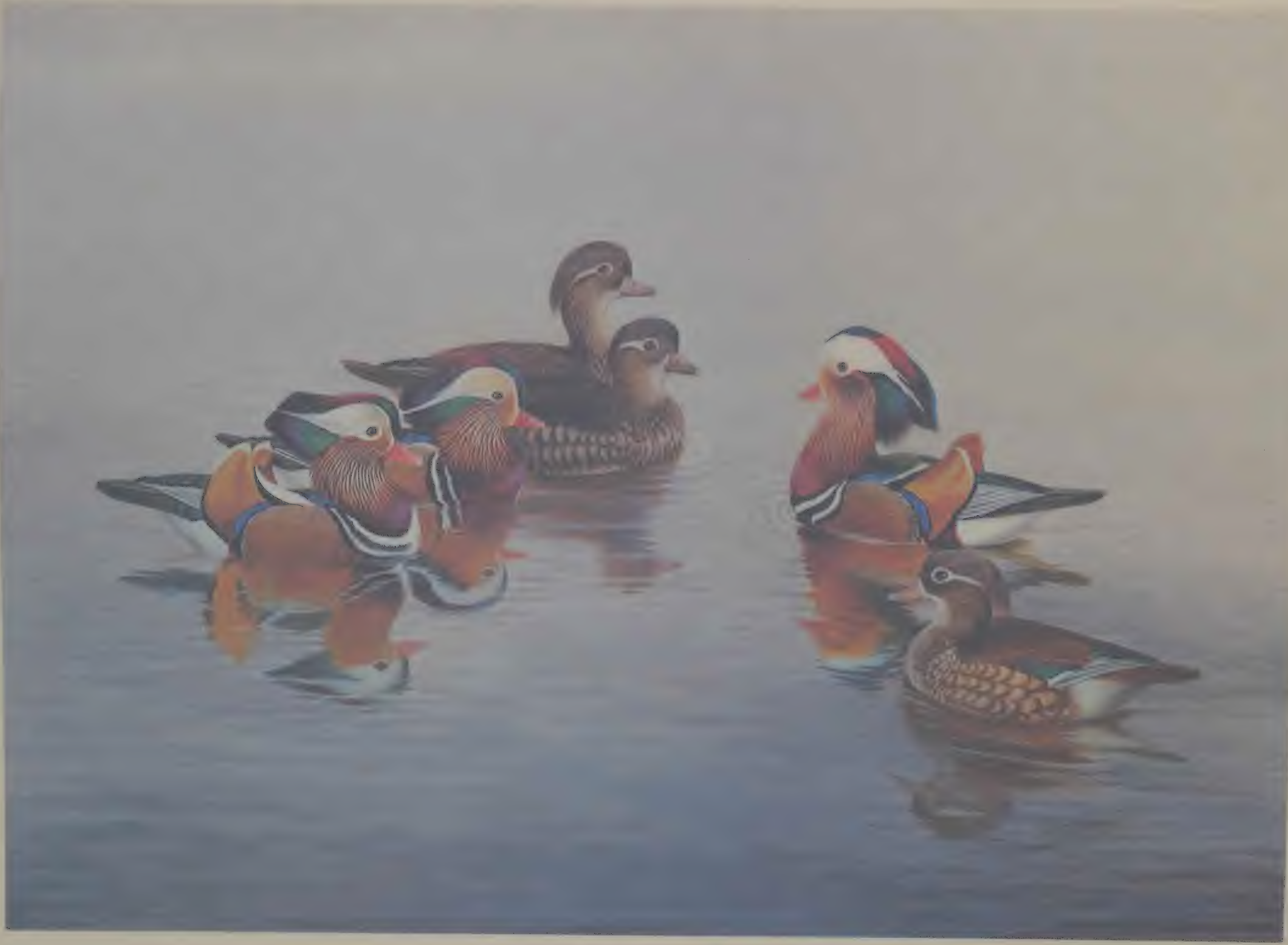
A Phase in the Display of the Mandarin 1971
Aix galericulata

THE Mandarin is one of the most popular ducks in captivity and no wonder; both drakes and ducks are very active amusing little creatures. The drakes when in full plumage, as can be seen from the plate, are brilliant in colour, amusing in their antics. The drakes have a pseudo-erotic display in the autumn, when through the moult, like Mallard. The presence of a duck does not seem to be a necessity at these displays; while perhaps the spring displays – when the mating season is in full swing – are more ardent, with their filamentous cheek plumes and wing sails shown to the utmost advantage.

All their actions are quick; they fly rapidly, and no doubt their long tails are a help in flying through woodland. They nest in holes in trees and perch readily. Mandarins walk and run easily and they are very pin toed. Even when feeding on grain on land, suddenly one or two drakes will stand stretching their necks to their full height emitting a grunting noise. They are supposed to be models of fidelity by the Chinese. In my experience the drakes could be described as rather gay Lotharios, and go on the principle that only the brave deserve the fair. If there are not enough ducks the unattached drakes can be a nuisance. Occasionally a very dull plumaged drake can be seen in a collection; the patch of filamentous feathers on the cheeks are grey not golden buff and the rest of the plumage is dull. It has seemed to me that these birds are 'so-to-speak' mules and do not attempt to breed.

Mandarins will take to nest boxes on poles with little ladders to enable pinioned birds to get to the boxes; full winged Mandarins seem to home fairly well. The ducklings have very long down, especially on the tails; if they are being hand-reared, it is a good thing to cut this short, and this avoids their getting wet. The young can climb well, and will work their way out of a rough sided wooden box. Like their parents they are very quick and active and adept at catching insects. There are colonies of full winged Mandarins in suitable places in Surrey and there are a few full winged colonies in Hampshire, at least up to a few years ago. Mandarins will become very tame and I have seen a photograph of the late Lord Grey of Falloden with a full plumaged drake sitting, or rather standing, on his head. Slow movements are very important when trying to tame birds.





A Phase in the Display of the Mandarin 1971

Aix galericulata

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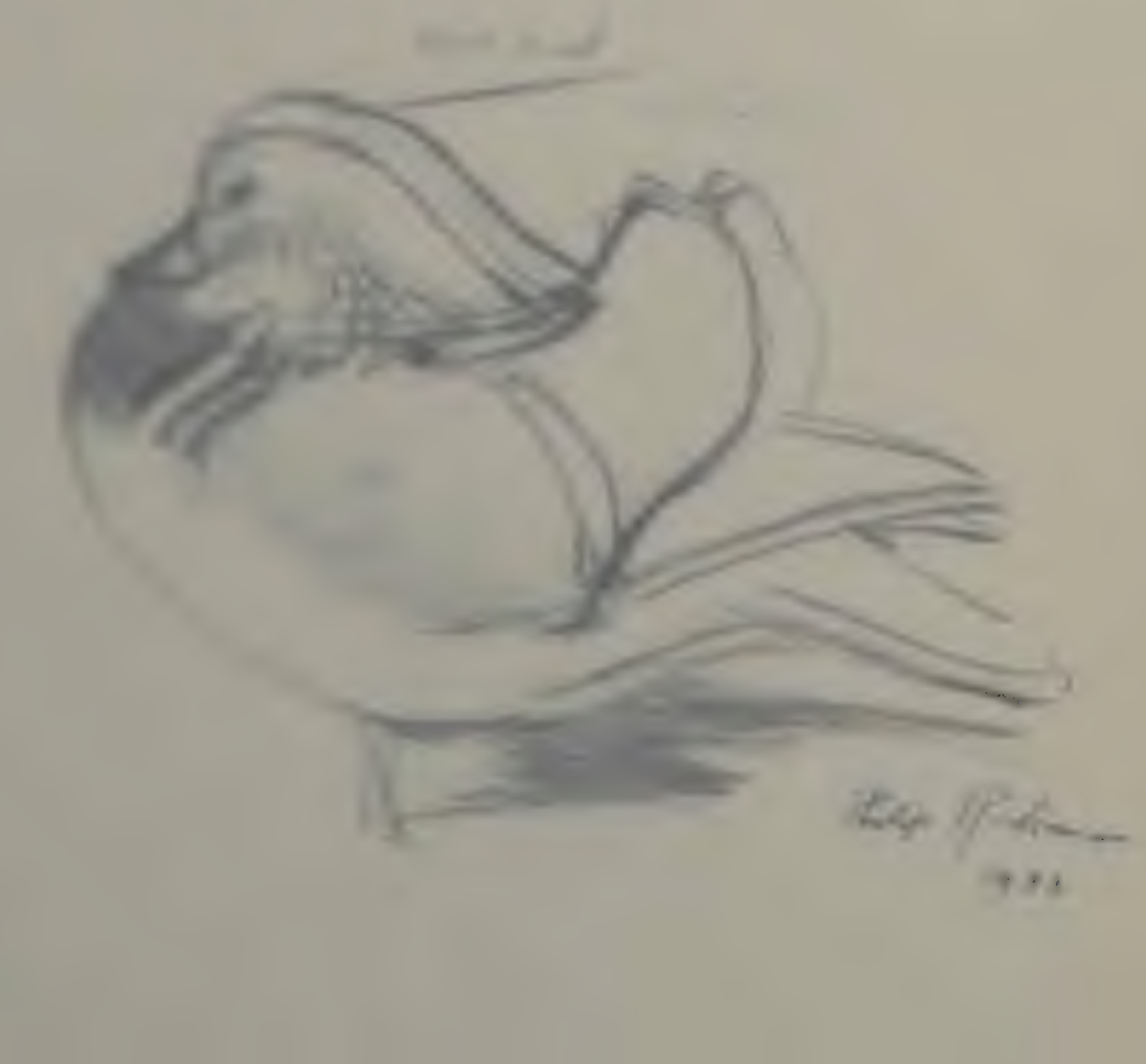


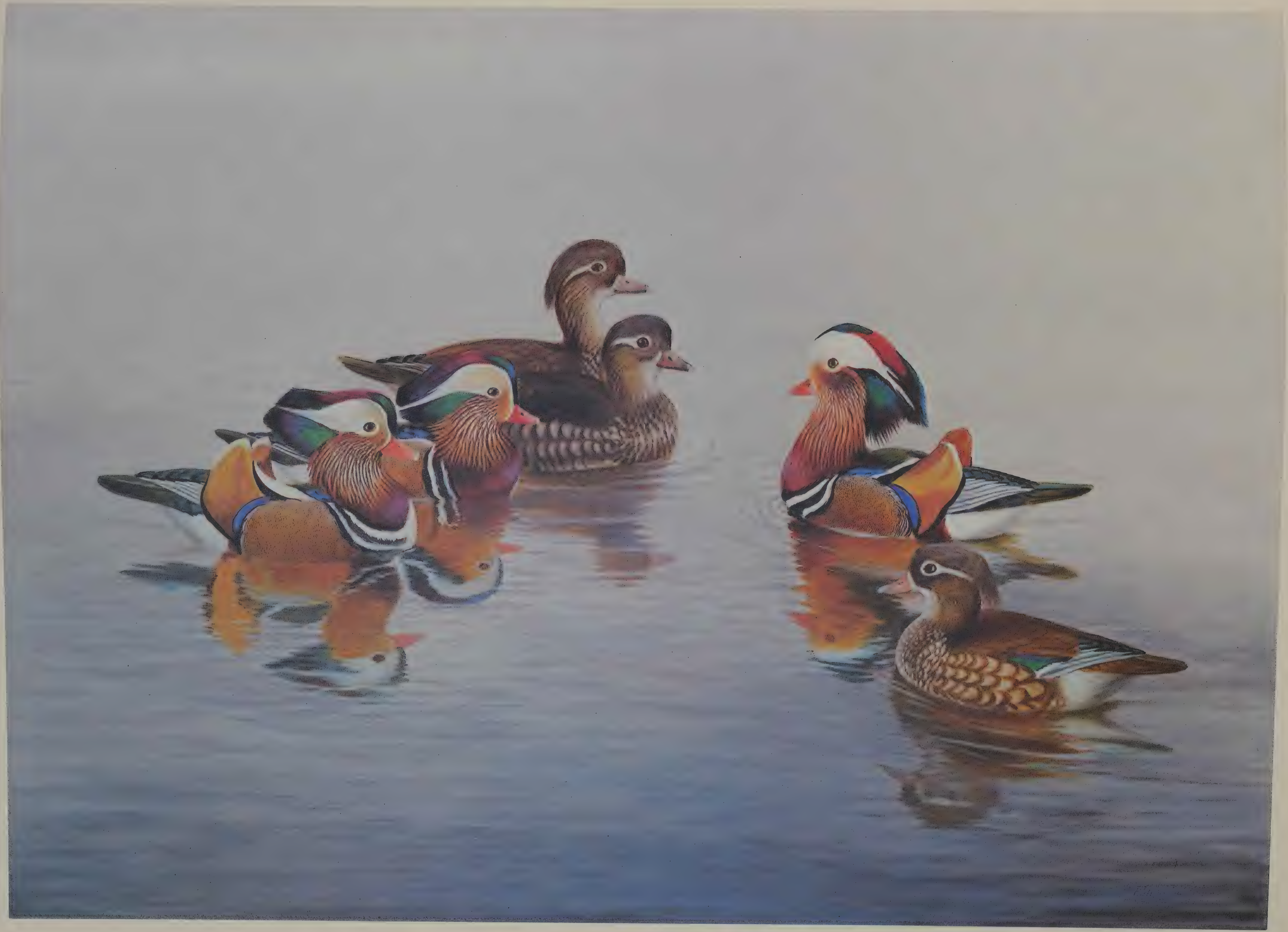


PLATE XIII

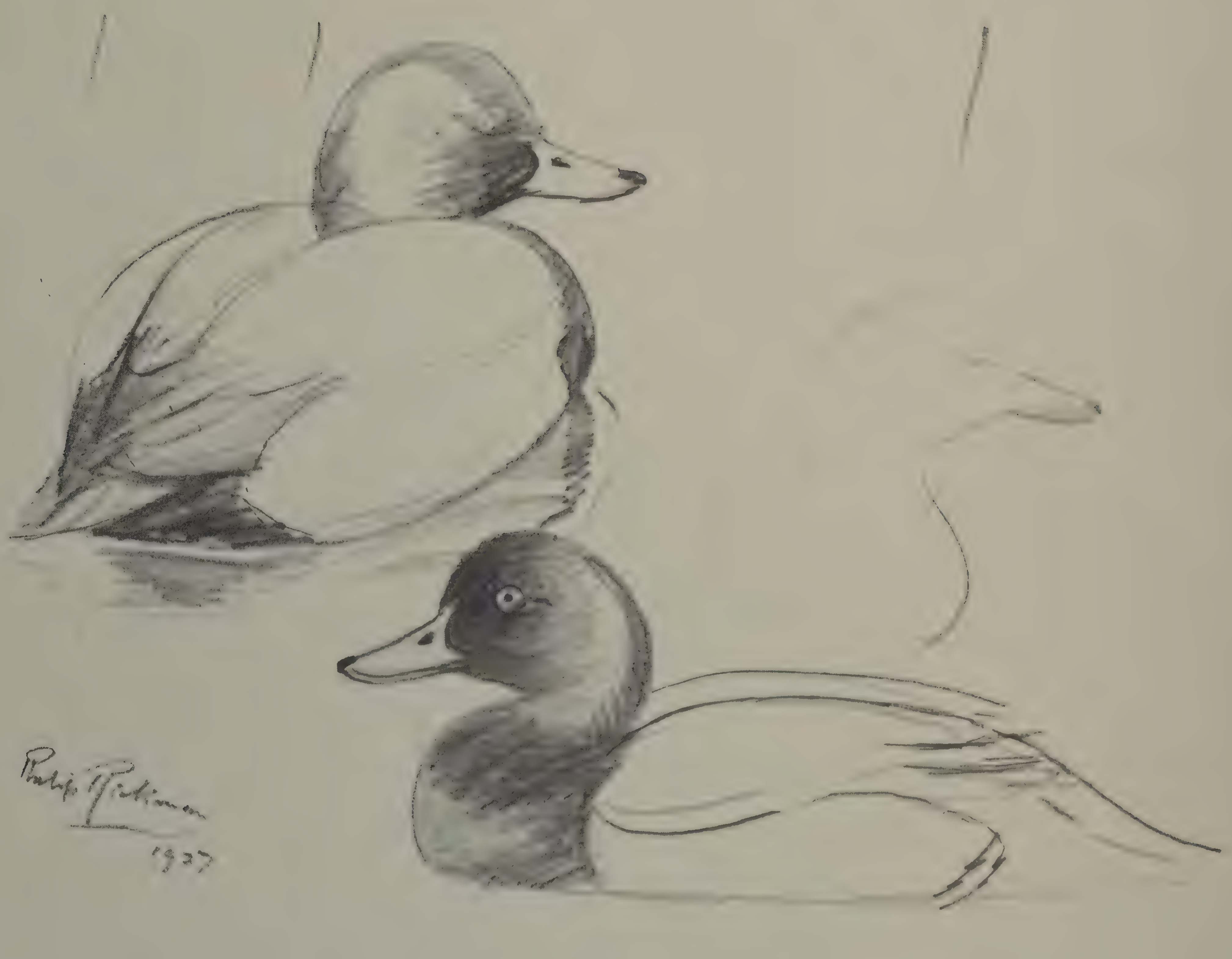
THE DORNOCH FIRTH
SCAUP

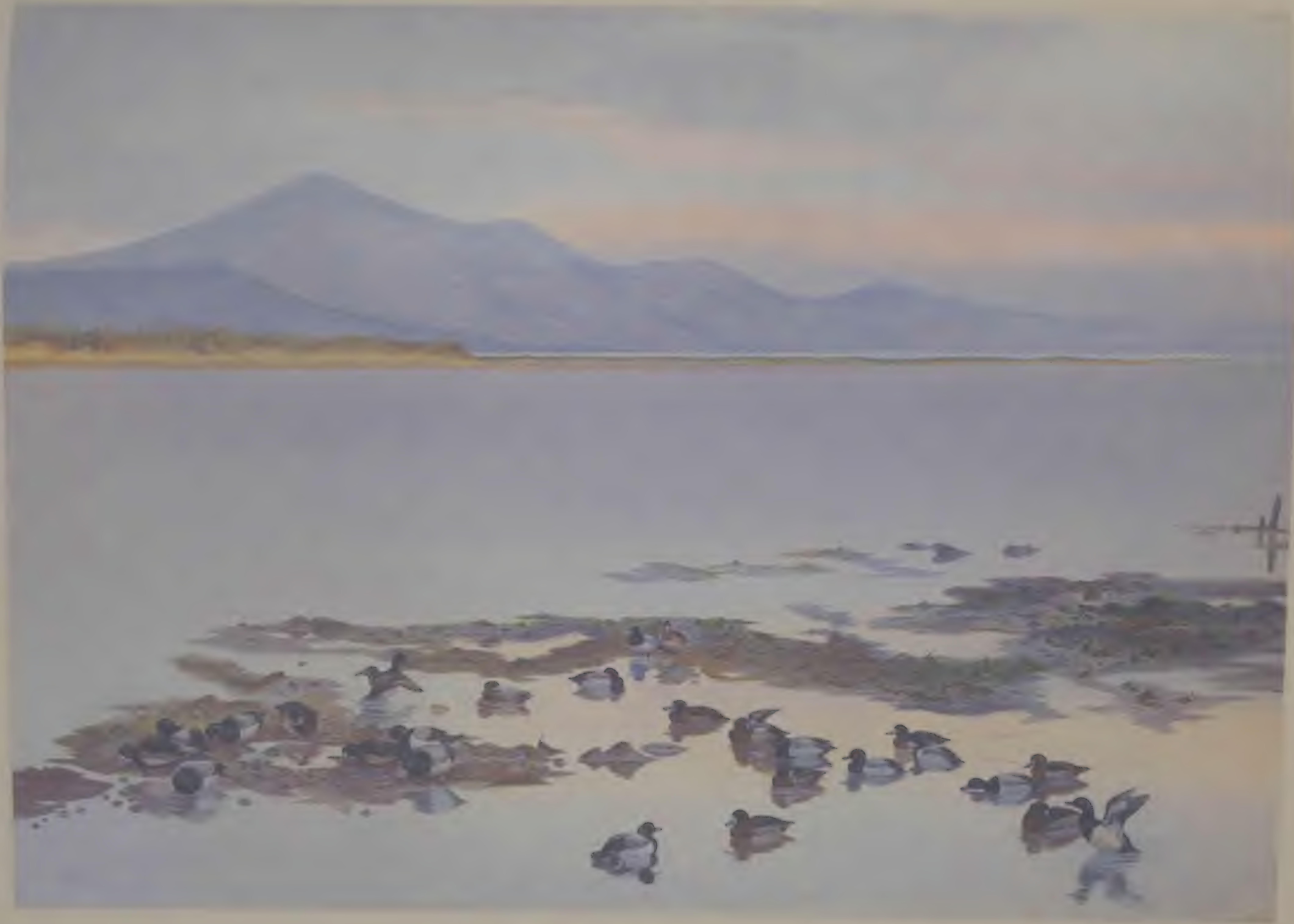
Aythya marila marila

The Dornoch Firth (Scaup) 1954
Aythya marila marila

SCAUP are quite common in places that provide suitable food. They feed a good deal on shell fish and animal matter and seem to do well on fair sized pieces of water in captivity.

The males are very attractive and handsome birds. A large number used to be hand reared at Walcot Hall from Icelandic eggs. Live food – maggots when cleaned – were an important part of the ducklings diet. Years ago a drake Scaup wintered on the Serpentine. I heard that this bird was seen there for six winters.





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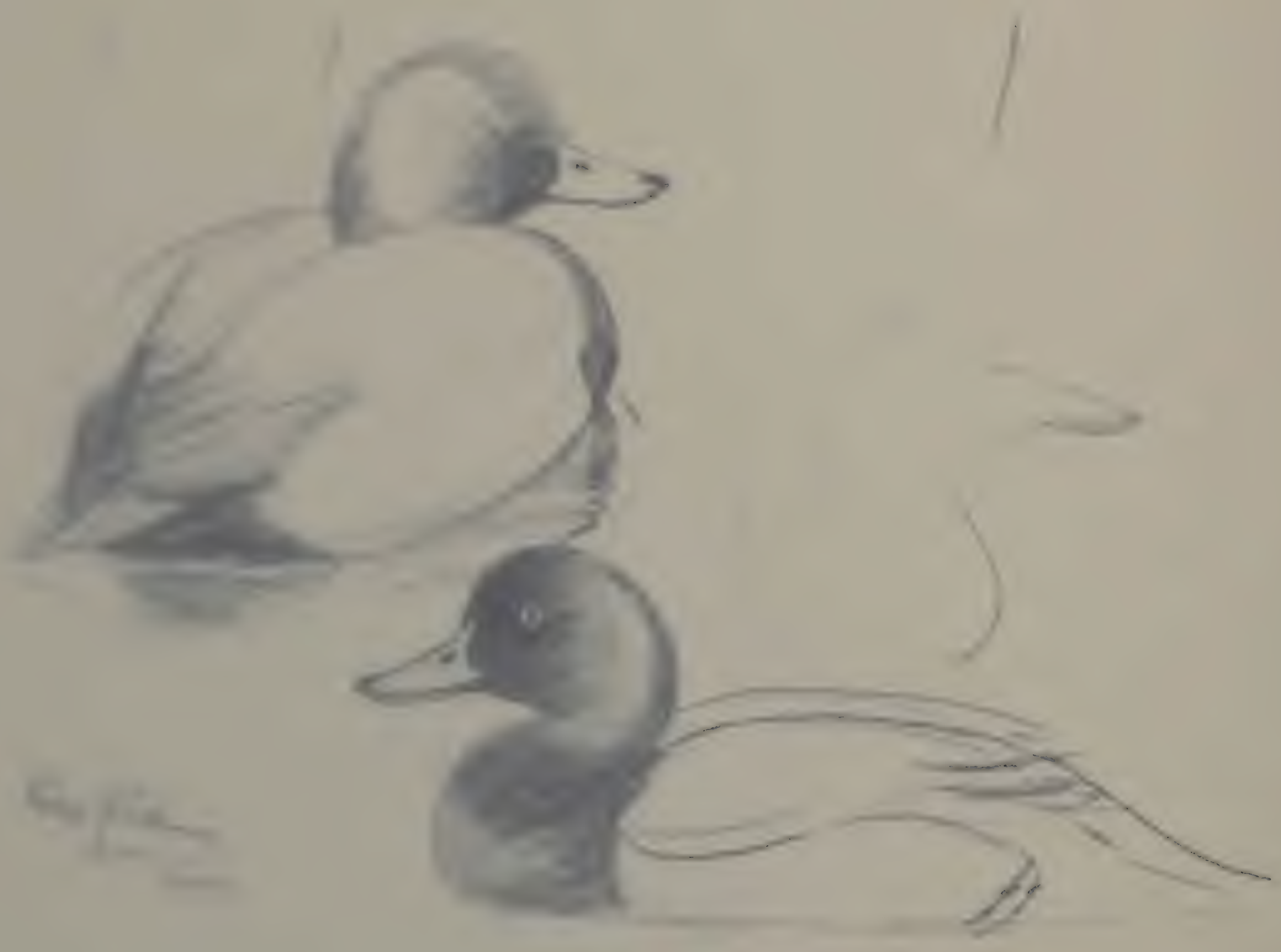


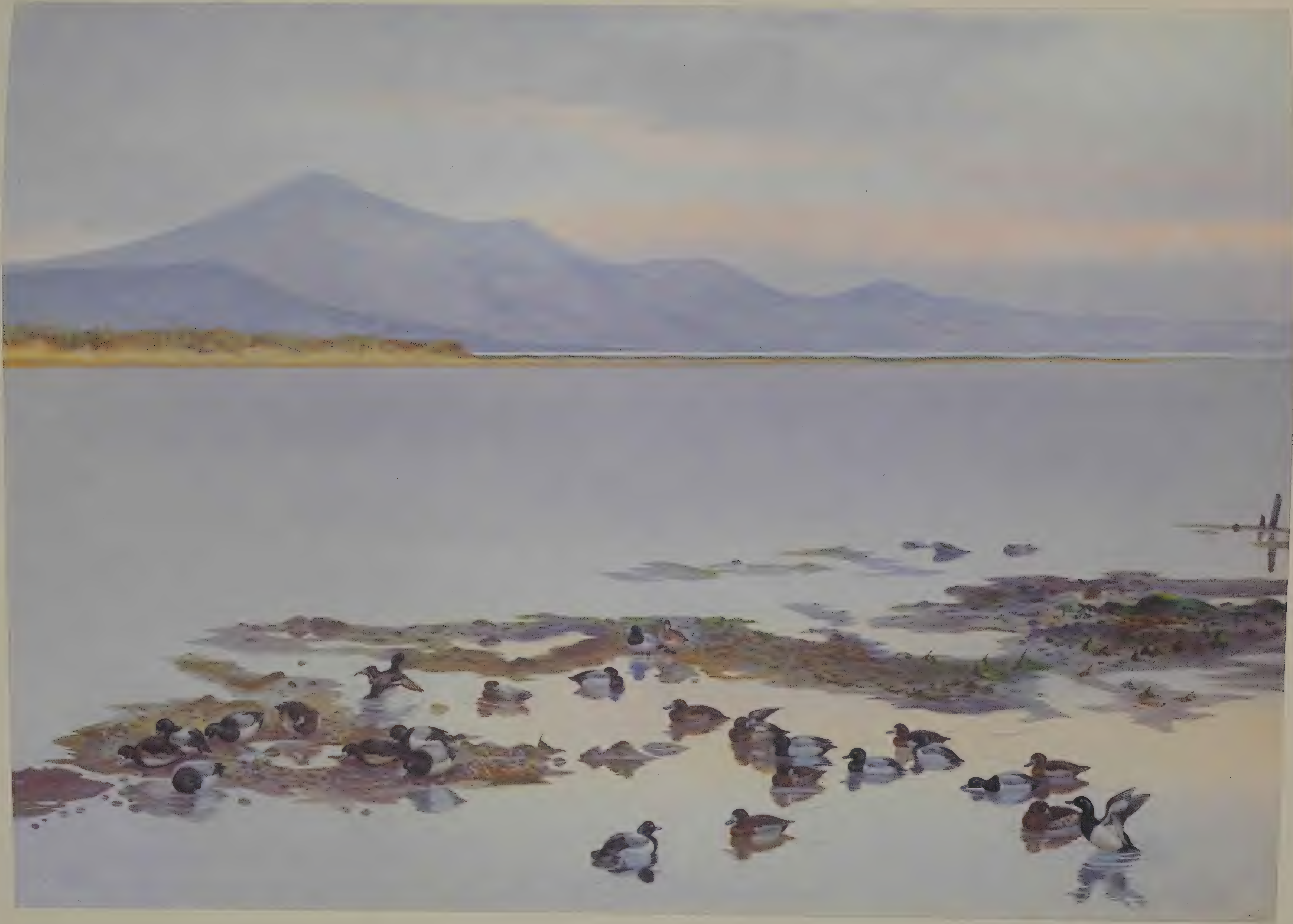


PLATE XIV

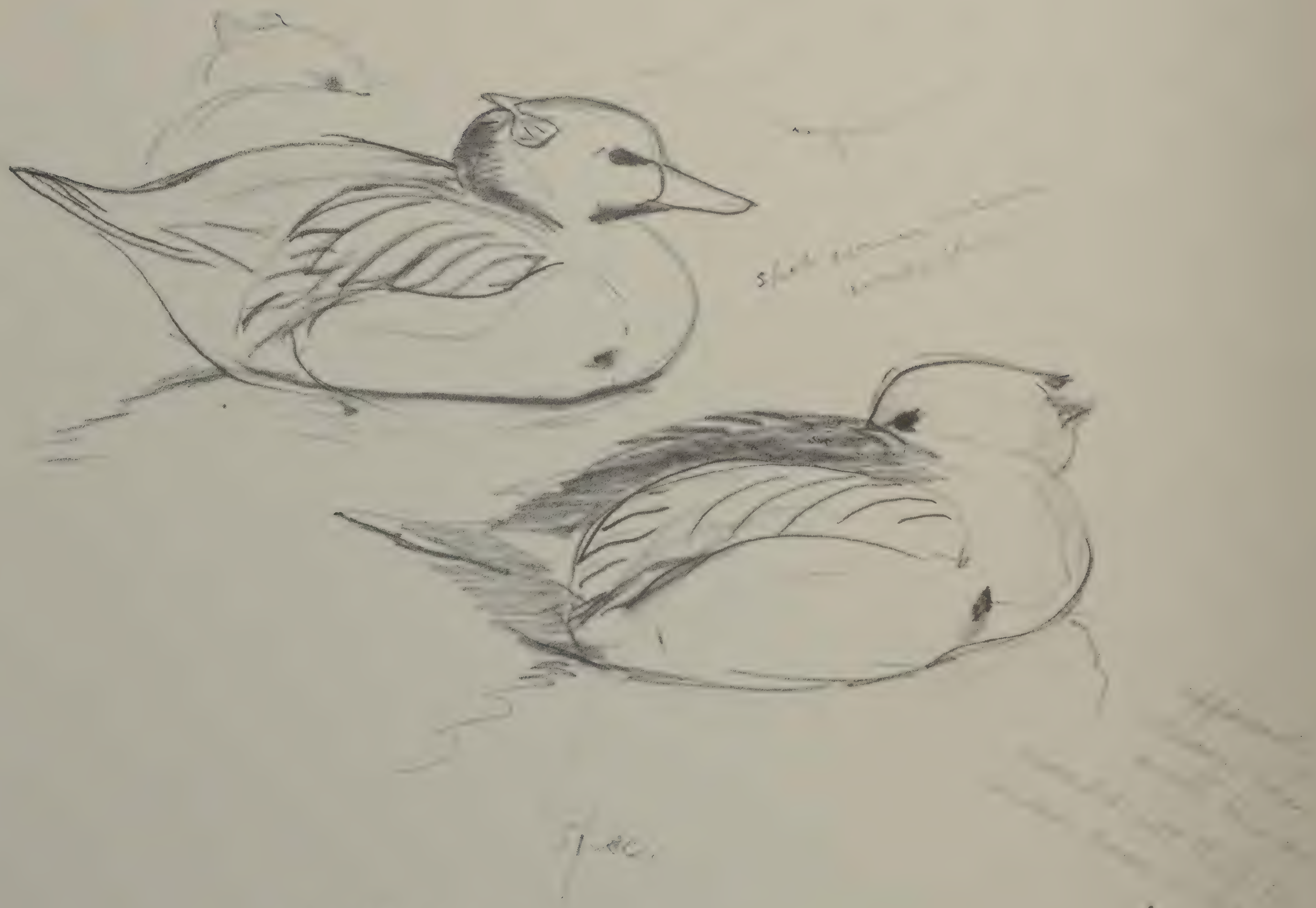
STELLERS EIDERS

Polysticta stelleri

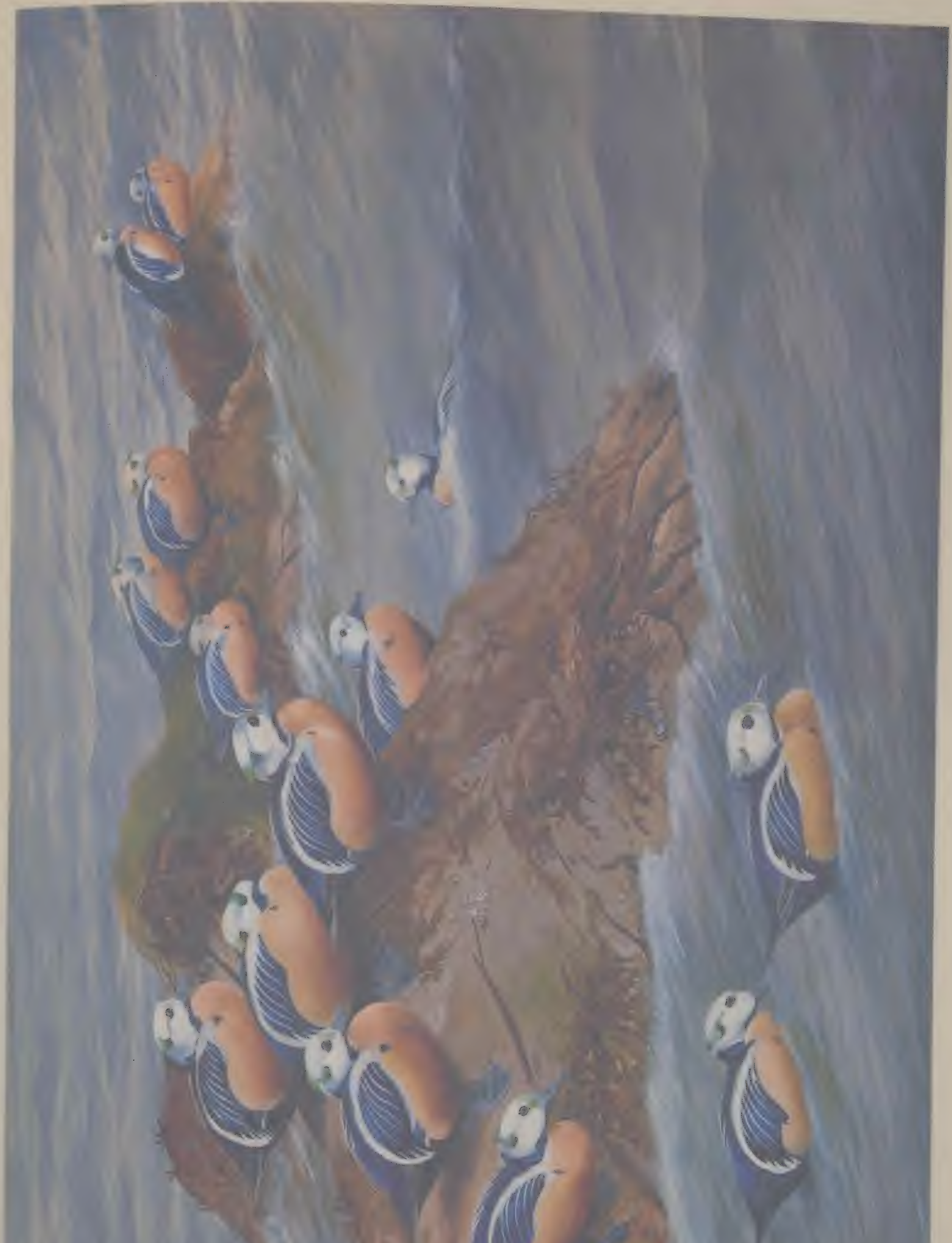
Stellers Eiders 1961
Polysticta stelleri

THIS beautiful little Eider breeds in Arctic Siberia east of the Lena river and on the north and north western coast of Alaska, and also – in considerable numbers – just east of Barrow and St. Lawrence island, Canada according to Delacour. Some very fine photographs taken by Dr. Pamela Harrison at Varanger Fjord show that these birds come close inshore, and stand about on the rocks; and Professor Vaughan has photographed them in association with Common Eiders.

The plumage of Stellers Eider drakes is exceedingly soft and silky to touch – at least on the heads which have a very satin like appearance quite different to other Eiders. I remember many years ago the late Lord William Percy telling me that one of the most beautiful sights in nature that he had ever seen was a party of Spectacled Eiders and Stellers sitting about on an ice flow when the sun broke through the almost persistent fog and haze off the Aleutian Islands. Those I have seen in captivity swim higher in the water and with tails well above the surface almost like a surface feeding duck. The picture was made from sketches of Birds at Slimbridge some years ago and I was fascinated too by the beautiful appearance of these ducks. The males flock as soon as the ducks begin to sit, and large numbers can be seen together in Norway on the Varanger Fjord. Seen against Common Eiders they appear very neat and small. They nest on fresh water pools and according to Conover quoted in *Ducks of the World*, will tip up in shallow water like Mallard and dibble like other surface feeding ducks.



Philip Rickman



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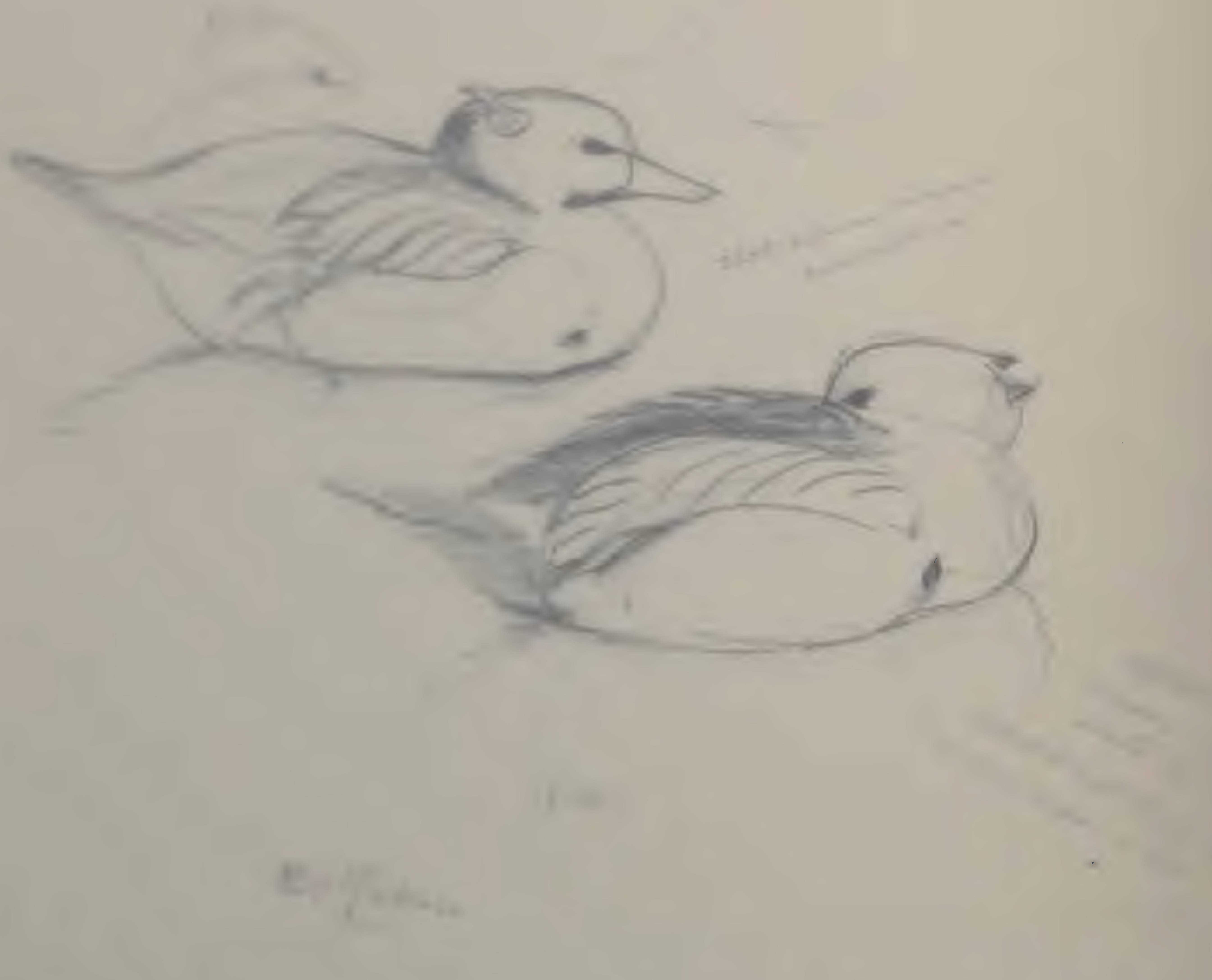


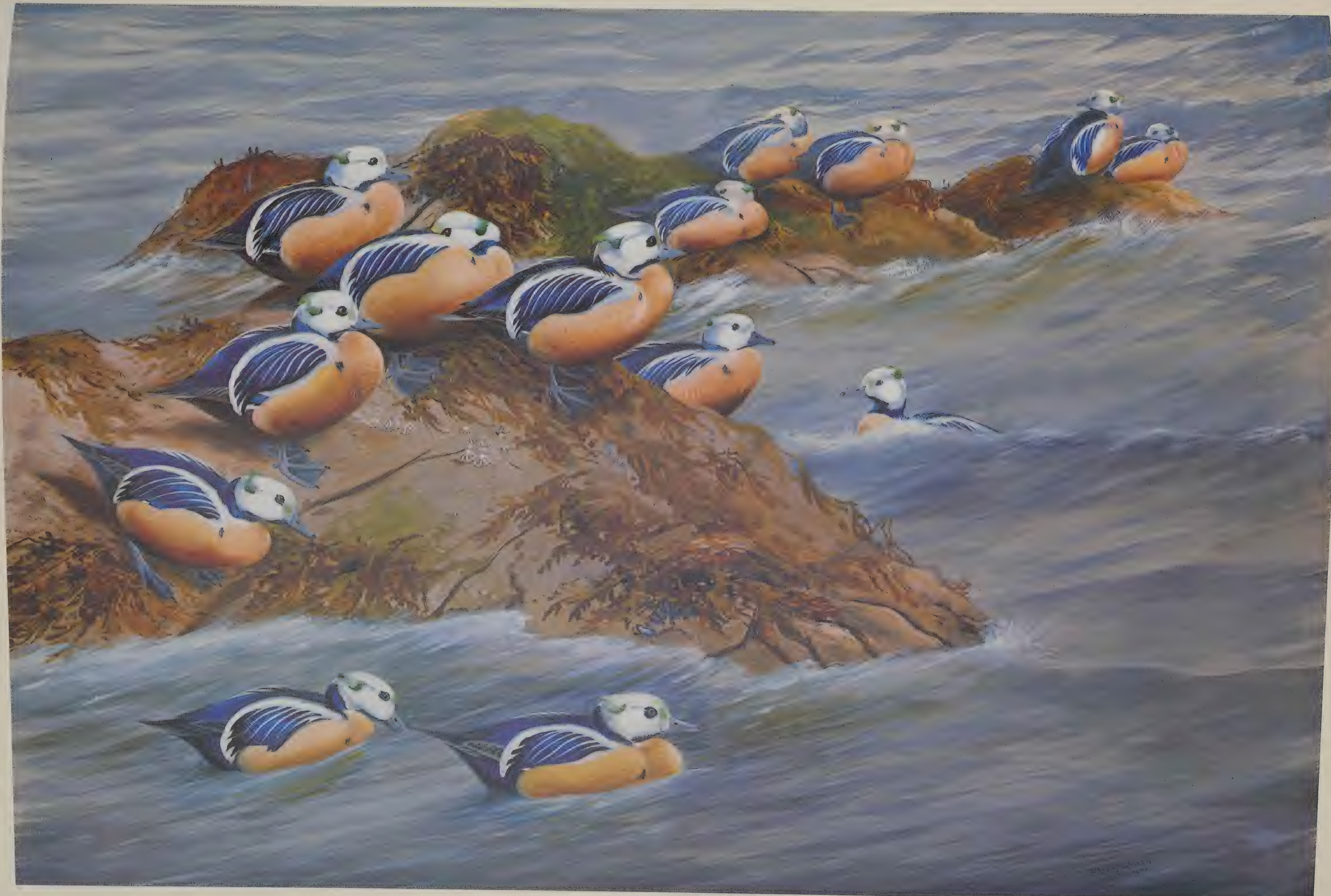


PLATE XV

A PAIR OF BUFFLE-HEADS

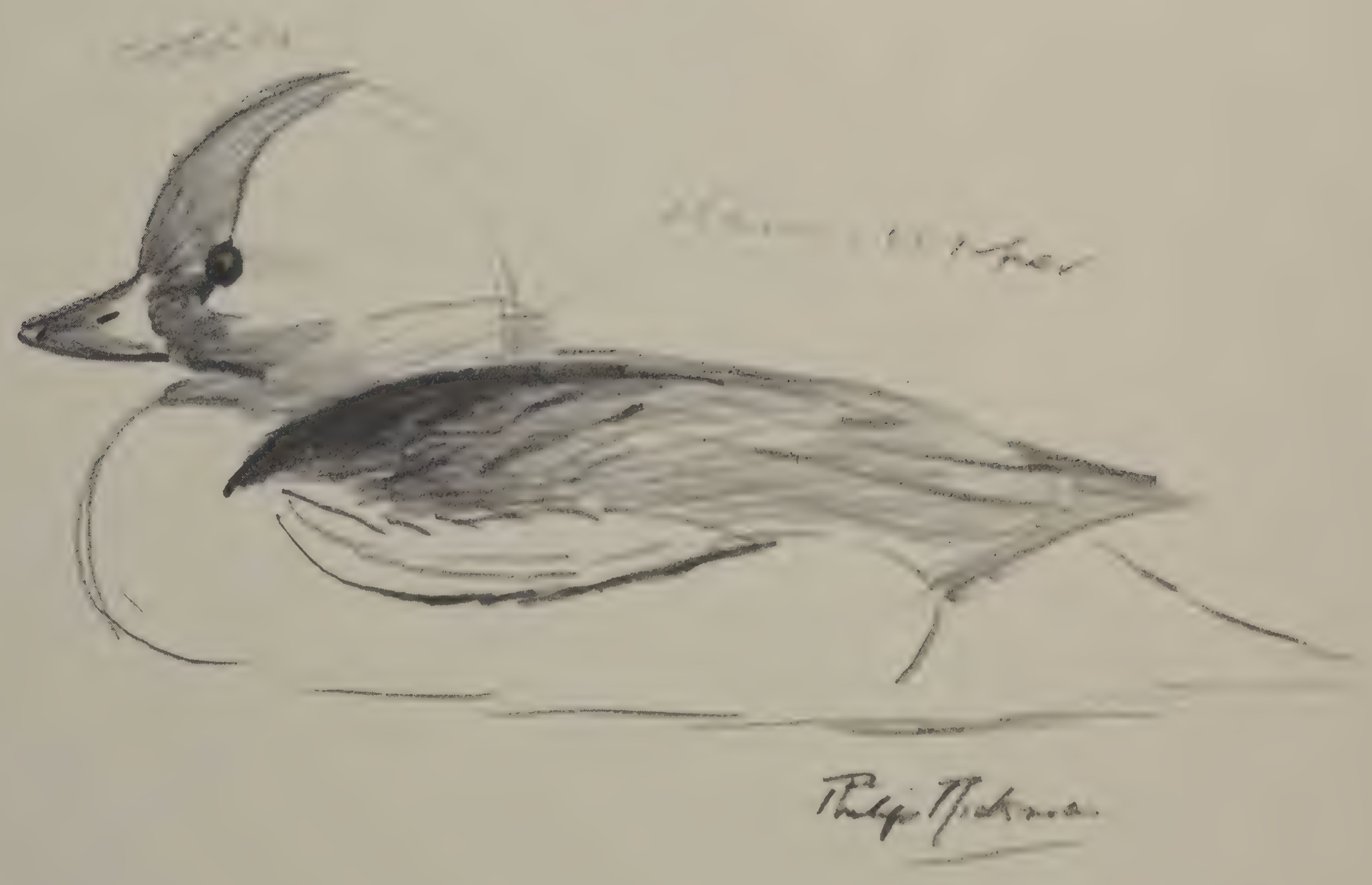
Bucephala albeola

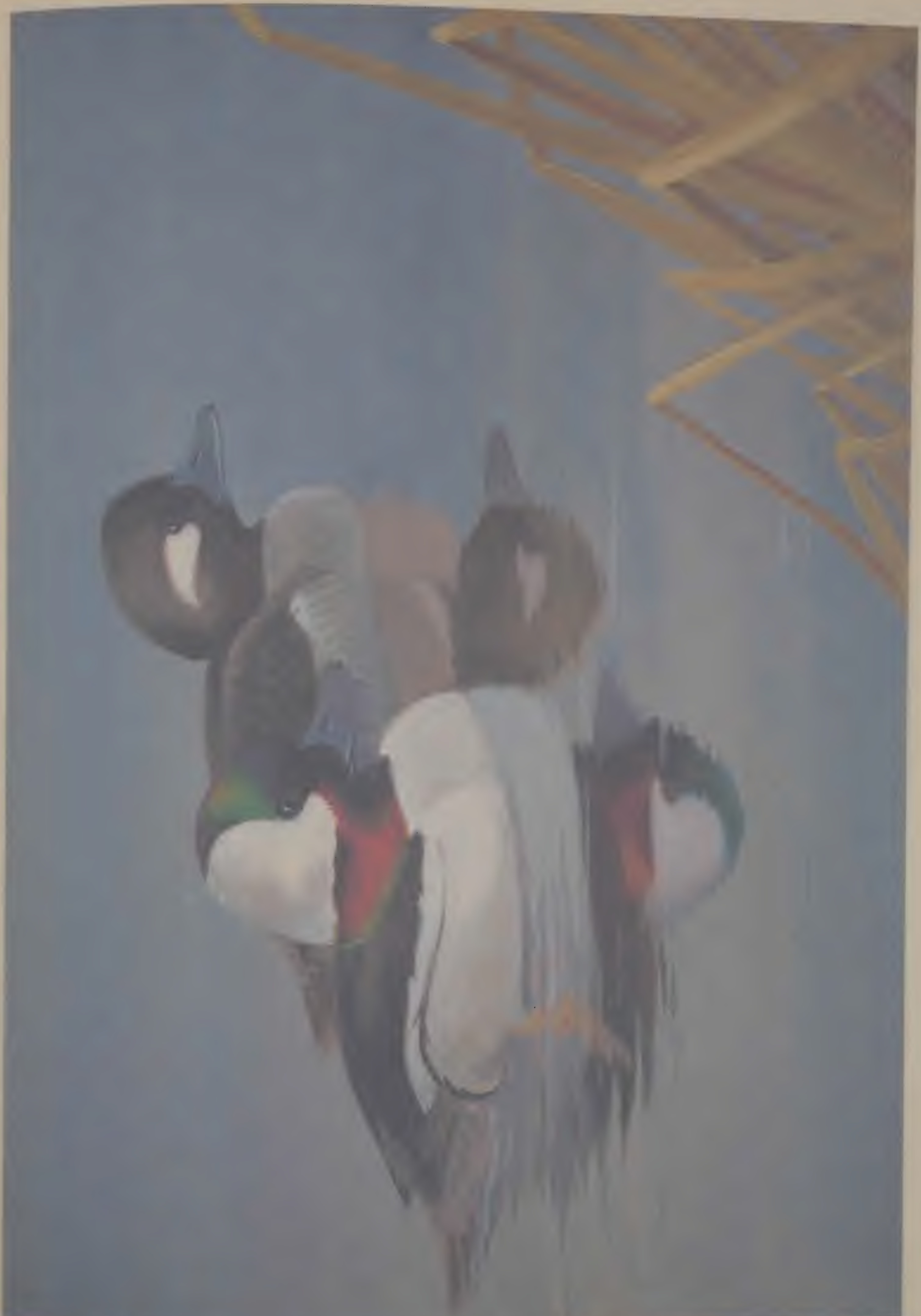
A Pair of Buffle-heads 1977
Bucephala albeola

BUFFLE-HEADS are in my opinion one of the most beautiful of the genus. They are very small and very quick in all their movements, diving very quickly and springing from the water with ease and rapidity. Buffle-heads breed in suitable places in North America according to Delacour and Scott, from Central Alaska to South of Hudson Bay. They winter from Lake Michigan east of Maine and Nova Scotia and south to North Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, and along the Pacific Coast to Commander Islands. They nest in holes in trees which are often at a considerable height from the water; pools chosen are attractive for food and seclusion.

I have watched the courtship attitudes of a drake Buffle-head at Walcot Hall on a sheet of water of approximately 14 acres. On one occasion the birds were very close to the shore and very tame; the courtship consisted of the drake swimming very close to the duck and puffing out the feathers of its head bringing the white flash even more into prominence as it was considerably increased in width. The rest of the head's brilliant greens shot with mauve and copper shone like a black opal. This performance lasted a minute or two, when the drake suddenly tightened and all its feathers and raised itself in the water presenting a rather comical appearance as it rushed through the water in a way that reminded me of a phase in the courtship of the Smew. The drake then resumed its normal attitude, but retained the puffed feathering on head and neck.

I have seen first year Buffle-heads at Weston Underwood, which were not pinioned at the time and all their actions, diving, flying, etc. could be described as most sprightly.


Philip Rickman



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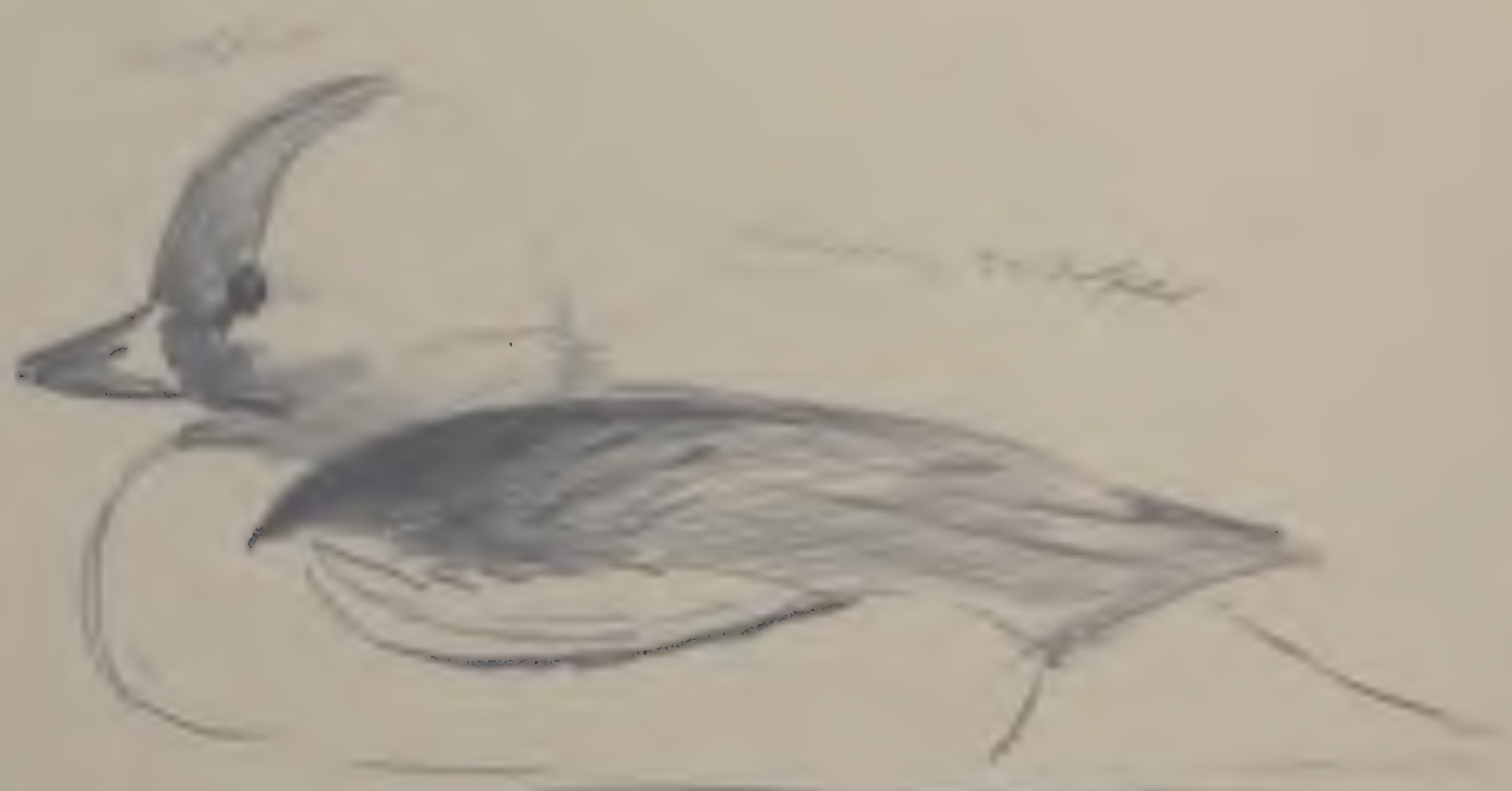

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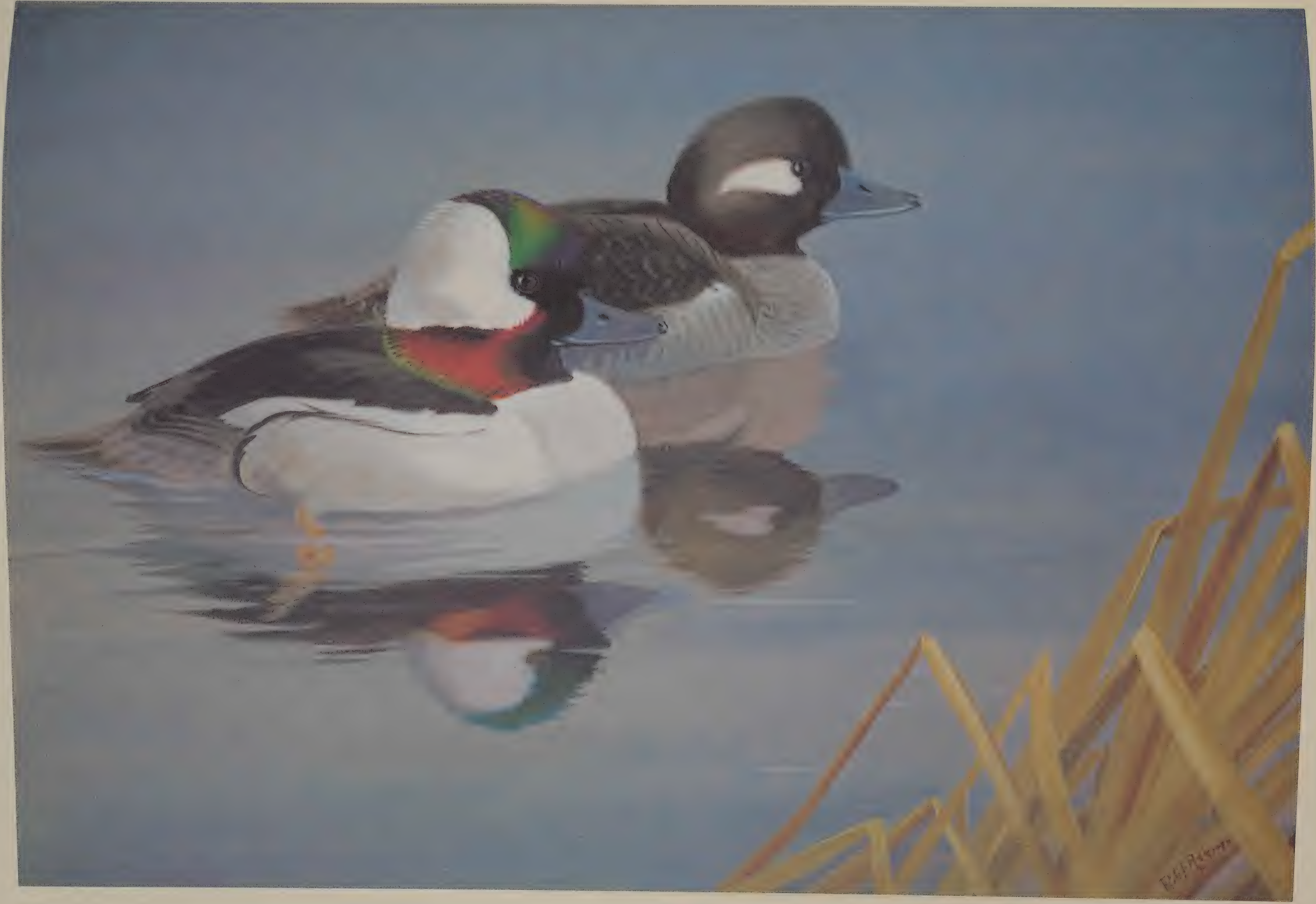


PLATE XVI

SMEWS

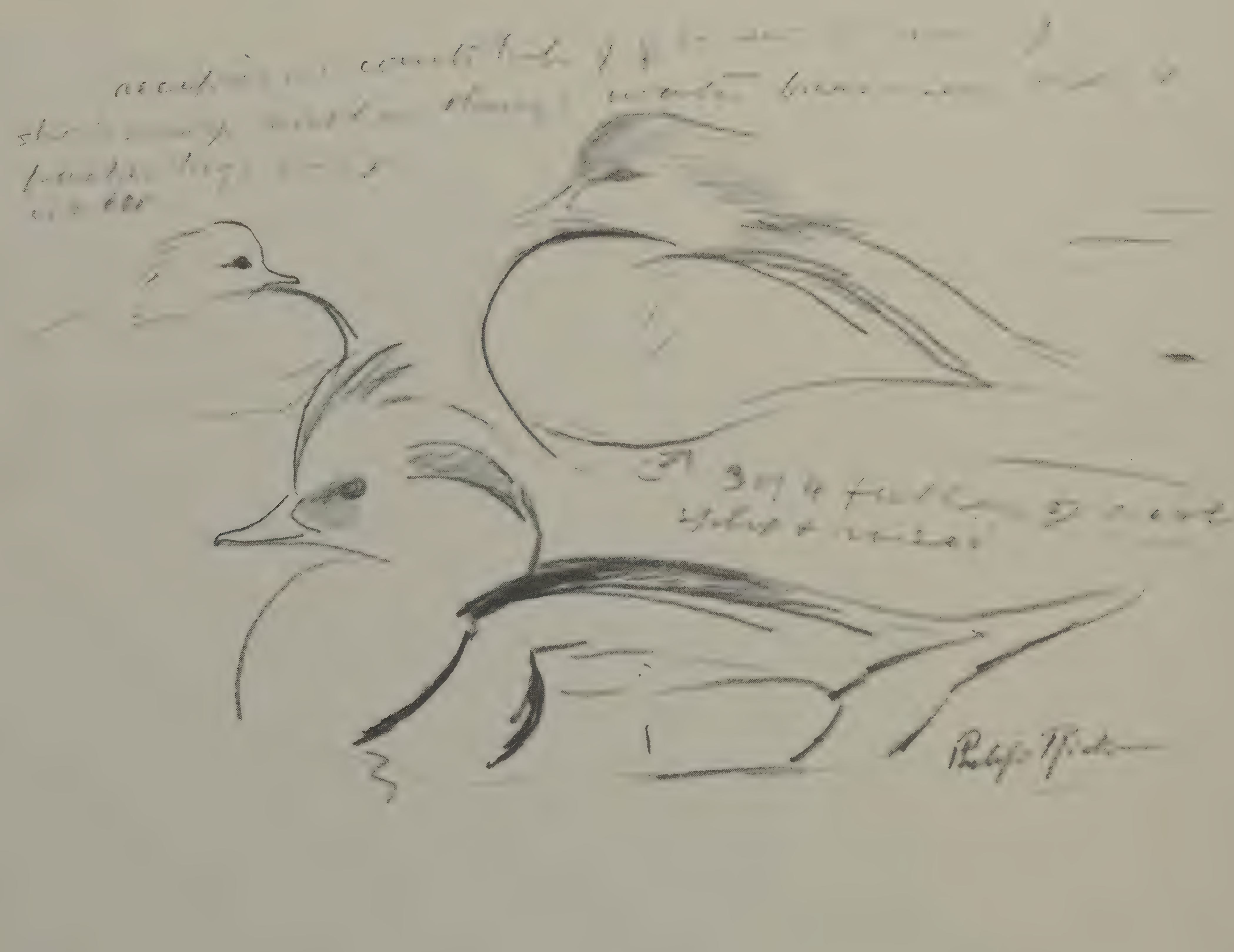
Mergus albellus

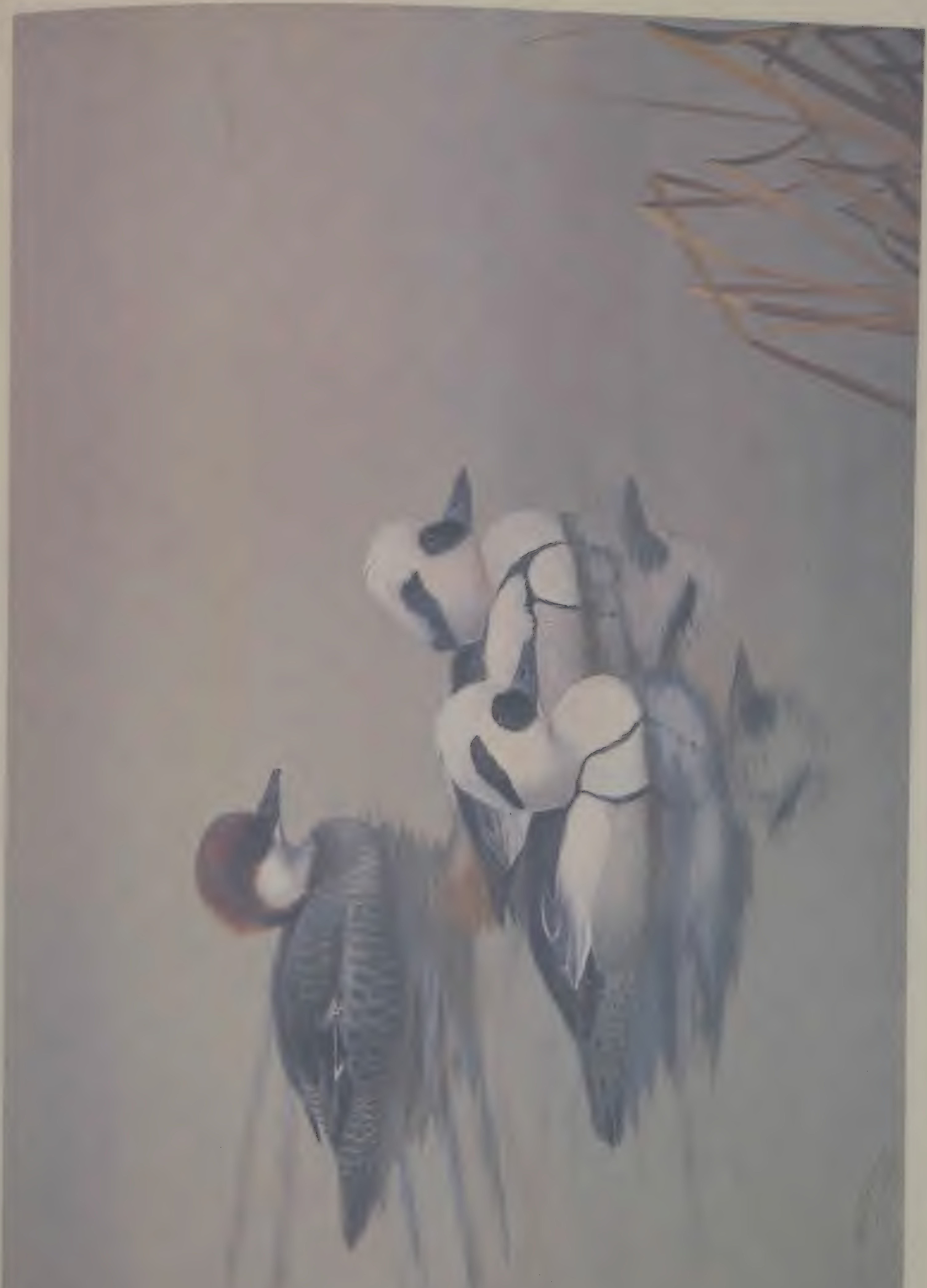
Smews 1961

Mergus albellus

SMEWS are very attractive little ducks, chiefly fish eaters, and are commonly seen on the reservoirs near London. The females and immature males (often called red heads) are generally more in evidence than old males. They nest in holes in trees; the Lapps put up nest boxes in trees which seem to be quite acceptable to these ducks, as well as to Golden-eyes. In courtship the male raises its crest, so that it is split in appearance, and rushes through the water. Smews breed successfully in this country in captivity; I remember their breeding at Walcot Hall. The pair were on a large piece of water of about 14 acres and nested on an island. The eggs were taken and put under a bantam. No doubt the birds had a good deal of natural food.

Smews in the wild state often associate with Golden-eyes. They rise easily from the water, but their flight does not make the loud throbbing sort of noise of Golden-eyes. There is no doubt that drake Smews are most attractive, their general appearance at a distance is black and white, but close to or in the hand the flanks are vermiculated as can be seen in the plate. The sketches were obtained at Walcot Hall.





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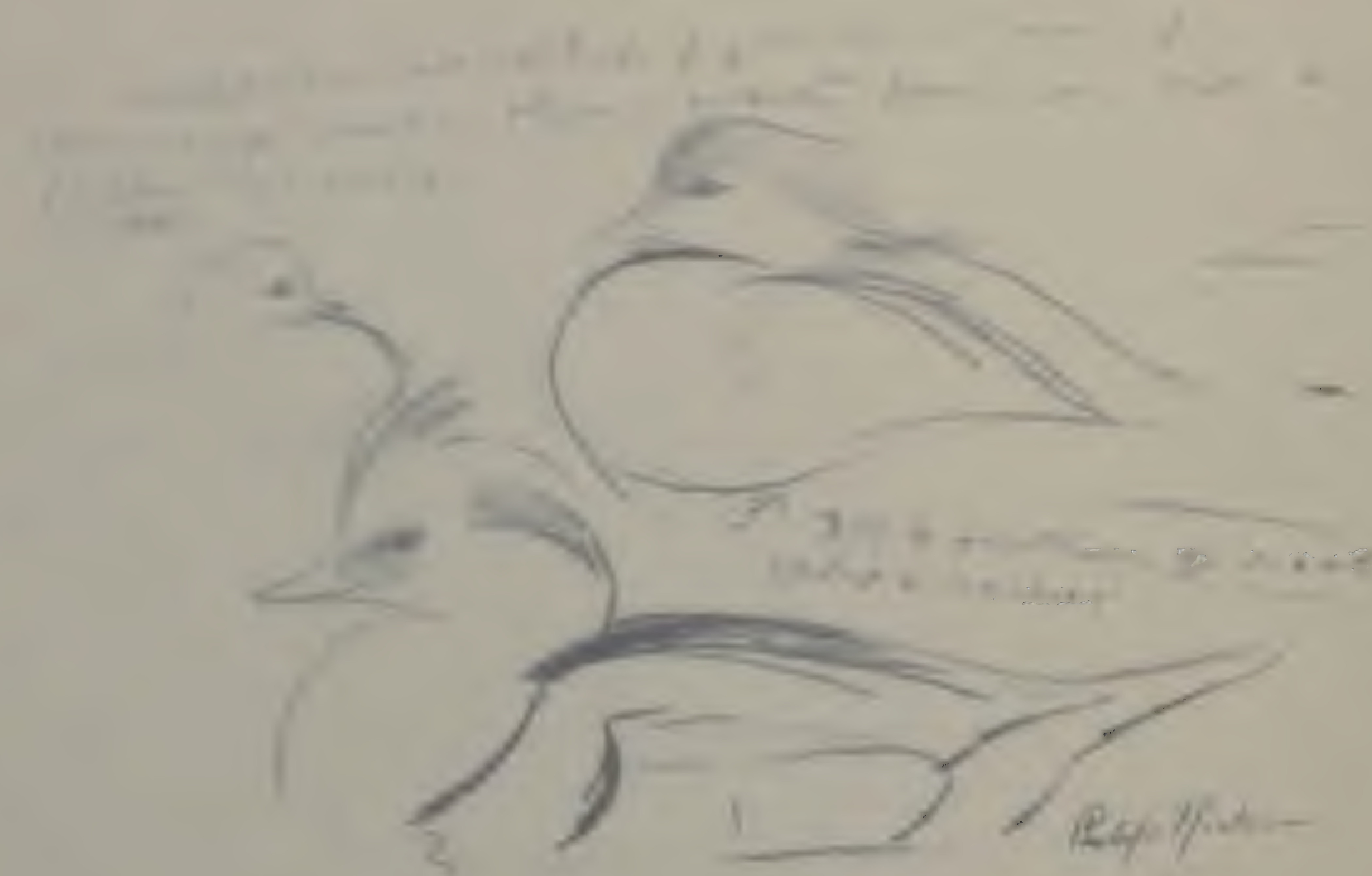


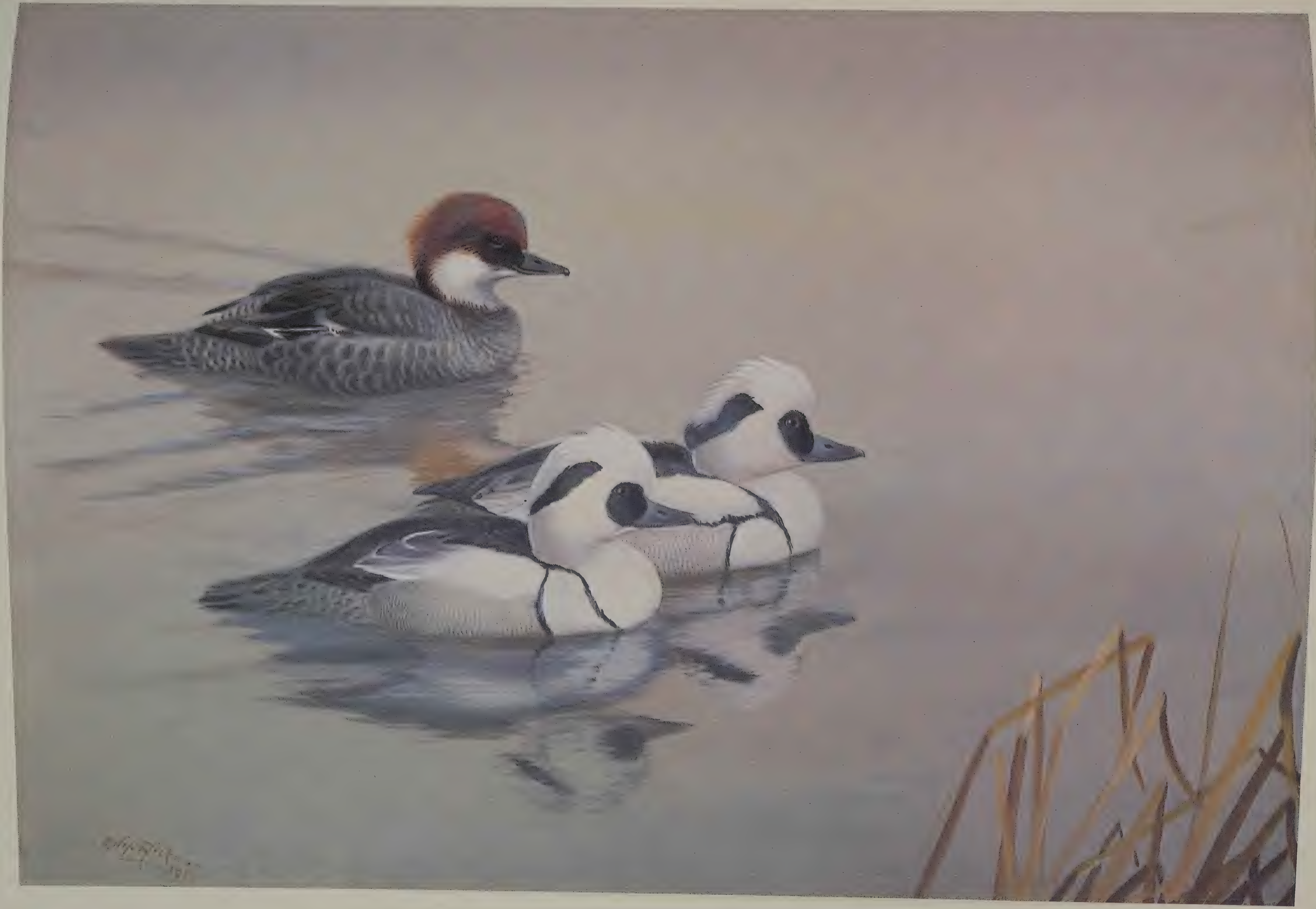


PLATE XVII

HARD WEATHER
GOOSANDERS

Mergus merganser merganser

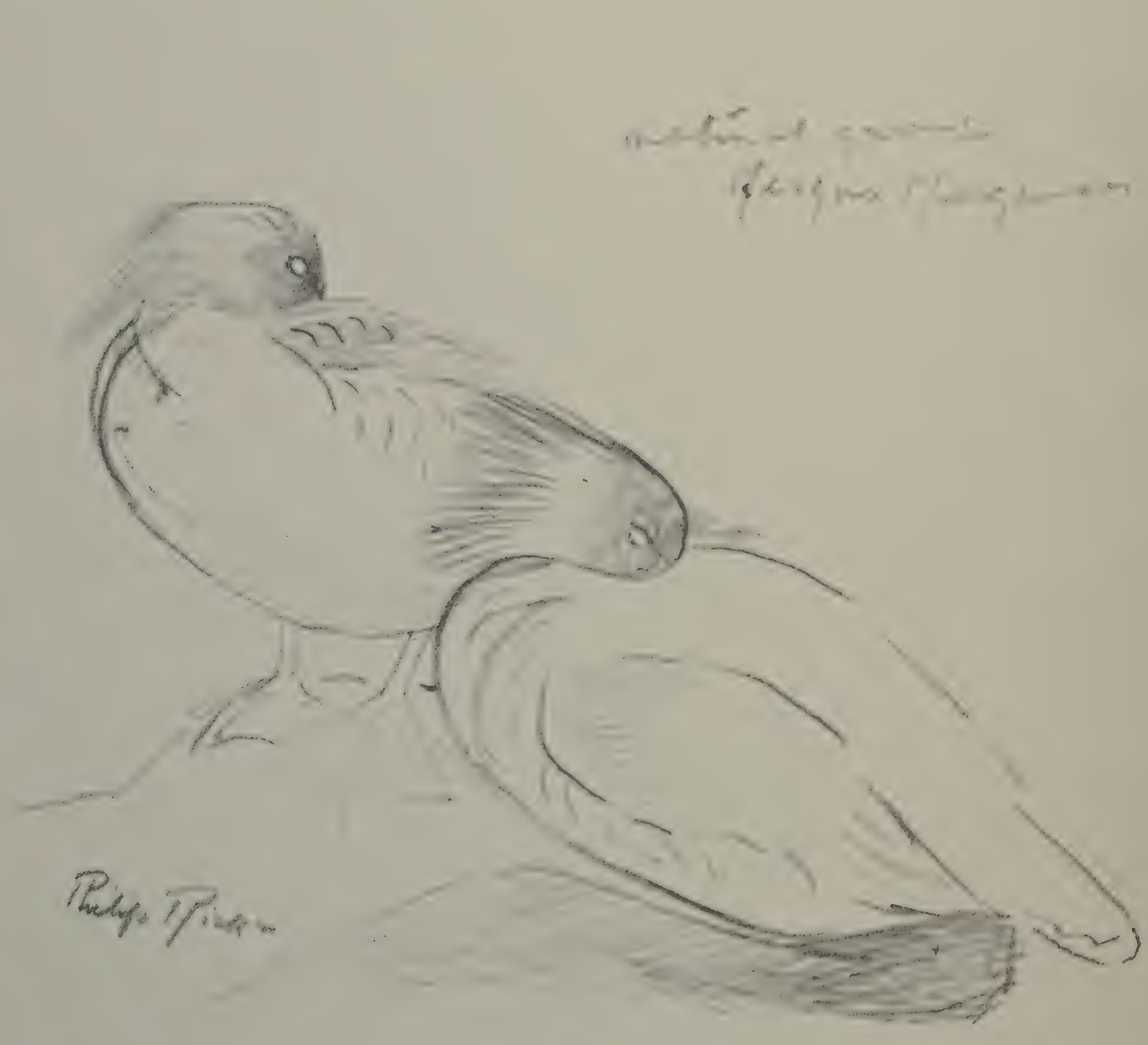
Hard Weather (Goosanders)

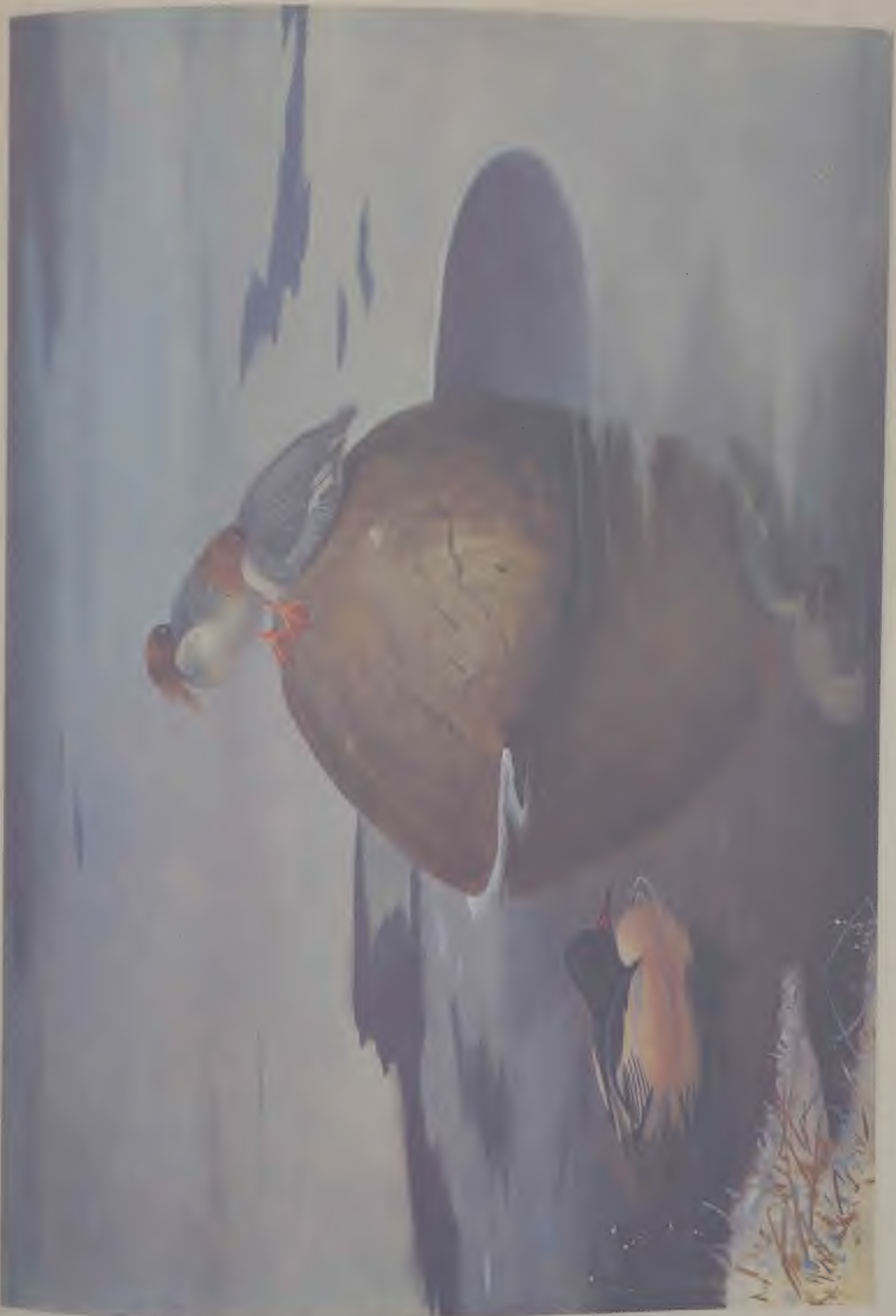
Mergus merganser merganser

THESE very handsome ducks, both male and female are attractively coloured. The drake particularly so with its dark green head and salmon coloured breast and flanks. Some males have a pinkish cast on the pale parts of the wing. The feathers on the crown and back of the neck are long and are as seen in the plate. The nape has a combed appearance. I remember one winter's day floating down towards a group of these birds – it was snowing at the time, and this enhanced the salmon breasts of the males. They are very wary birds and only by lying flat in the boat and being covered with snow was it possible to make the close approach that I did.

The colonisation of Scotland by the Goosander was remarkably successful. In the 1870s they were uncommon; from then on they have succeeded enormously, much to the annoyance of those interested in salmon and trout. They must consume a considerable number of trout and parr. I do not know the position today but years ago "a bob a duck" was commonly offered. They have a very cigar shaped body in flight, which is rapid and strong and they seem to follow the curves of the rivers rather than fly overland. They nest in holes in trees or rabbit holes, and I have heard of one nest in an old ruined bothy. The ducks are very good mothers and bring up large broods often up some little burn in the hills, and bring the young down this to the river. I saw a duck at Gaick with a number of ducklings fishing close to the bank; I suspect they had some fish cornered, as they kept on diving and made a considerable commotion.

In a small sort of inlet at Balnaboth they nested in rabbit holes. Through the kindness of Charles McLean eggs were sent to Walcot, where they hatched well, and the ducklings were reared chiefly on flesh (beef and rabbit) but the drakes never assumed the beautiful salmon colour of the wild birds. Courtship consists of both birds rushing through the water and raising quite a wake for their size; and males raise themselves up in the water thus displaying their salmon breasts. The drakes utter a soft note sounding like dir-dar repeated several times; the female a croaking sort of chatter. The long feathers of the nape are extended fully making the neck appear thicker, and the combed appearance is more marked.





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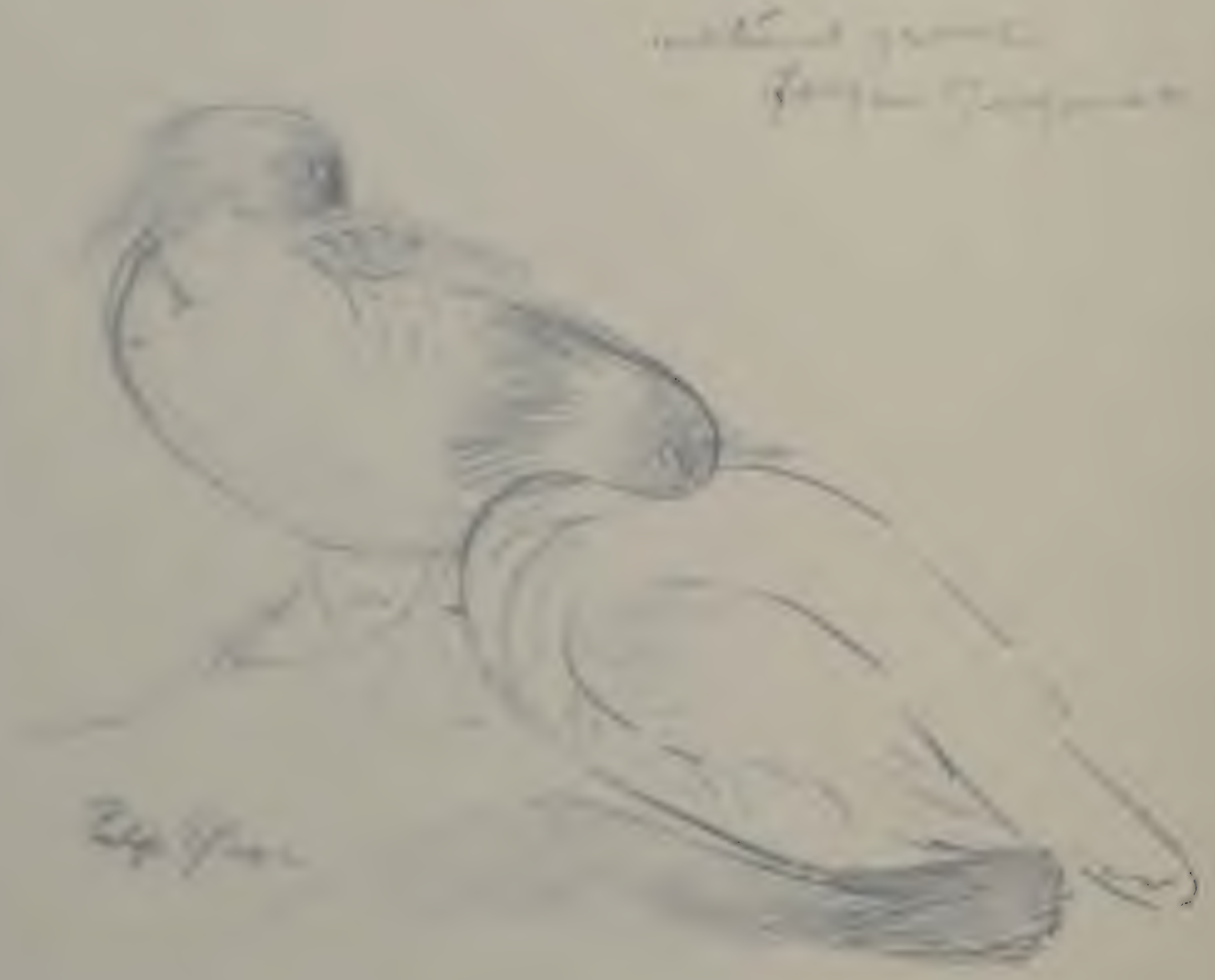


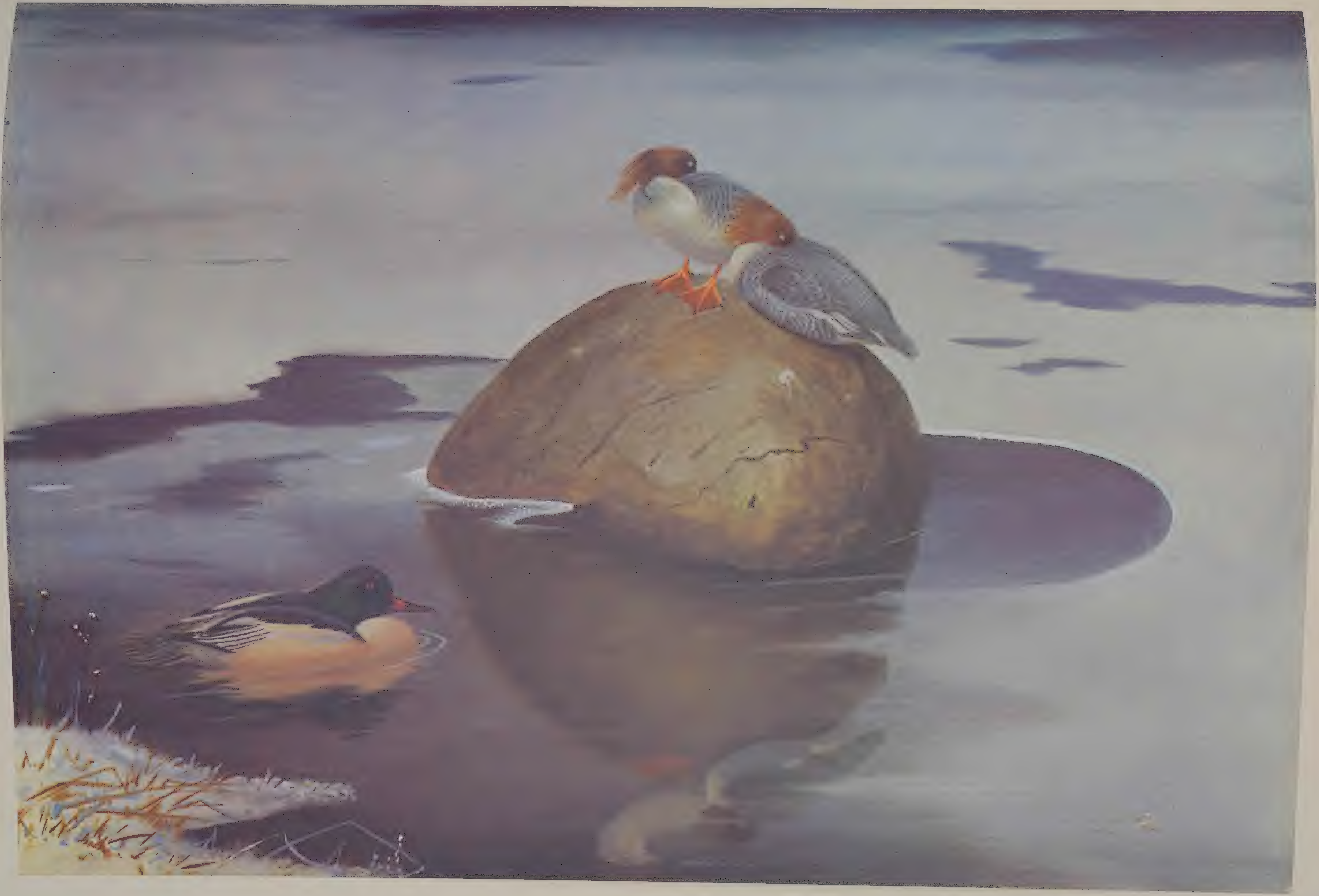


PLATE XVIII

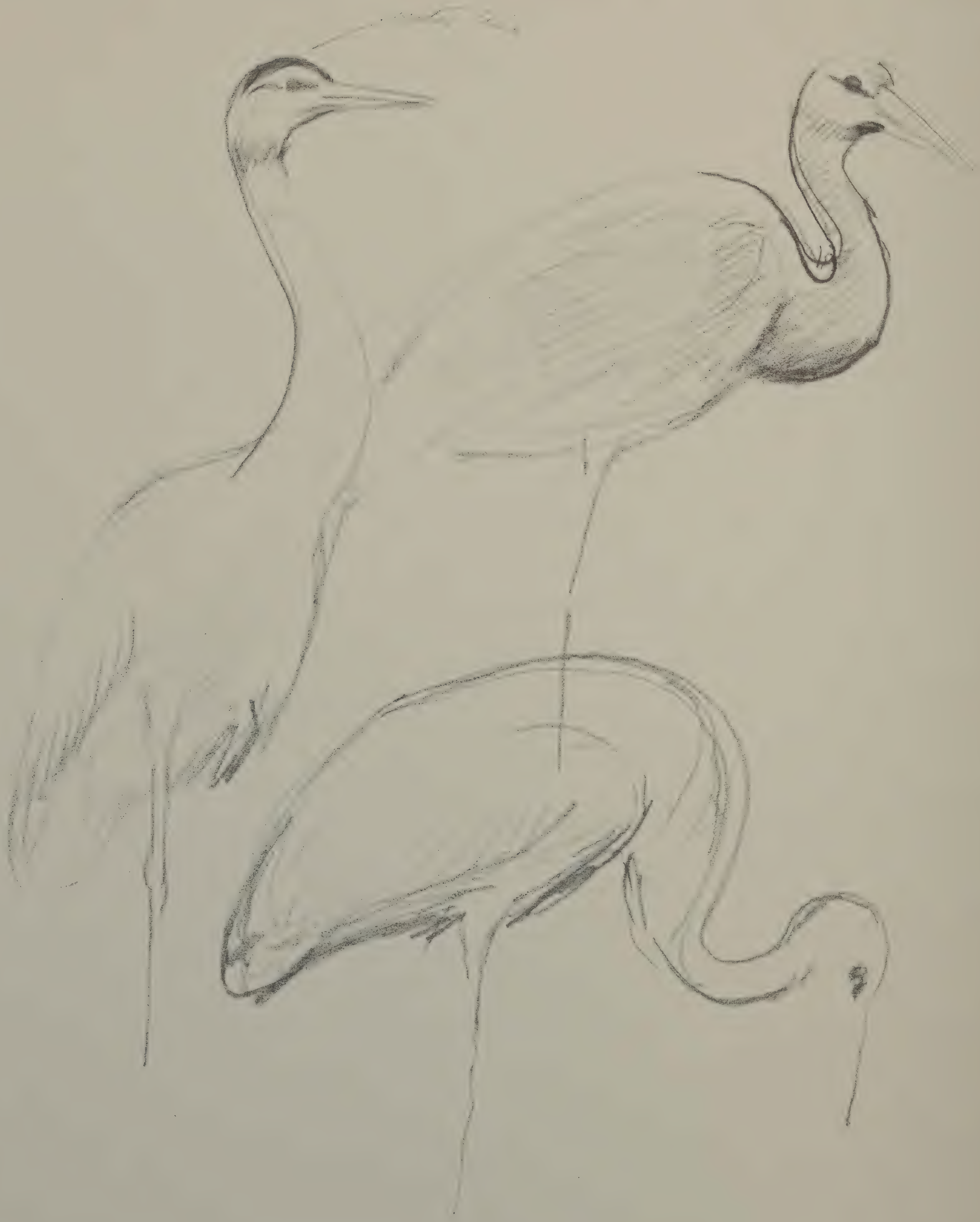
MANCHURIAN CRANES

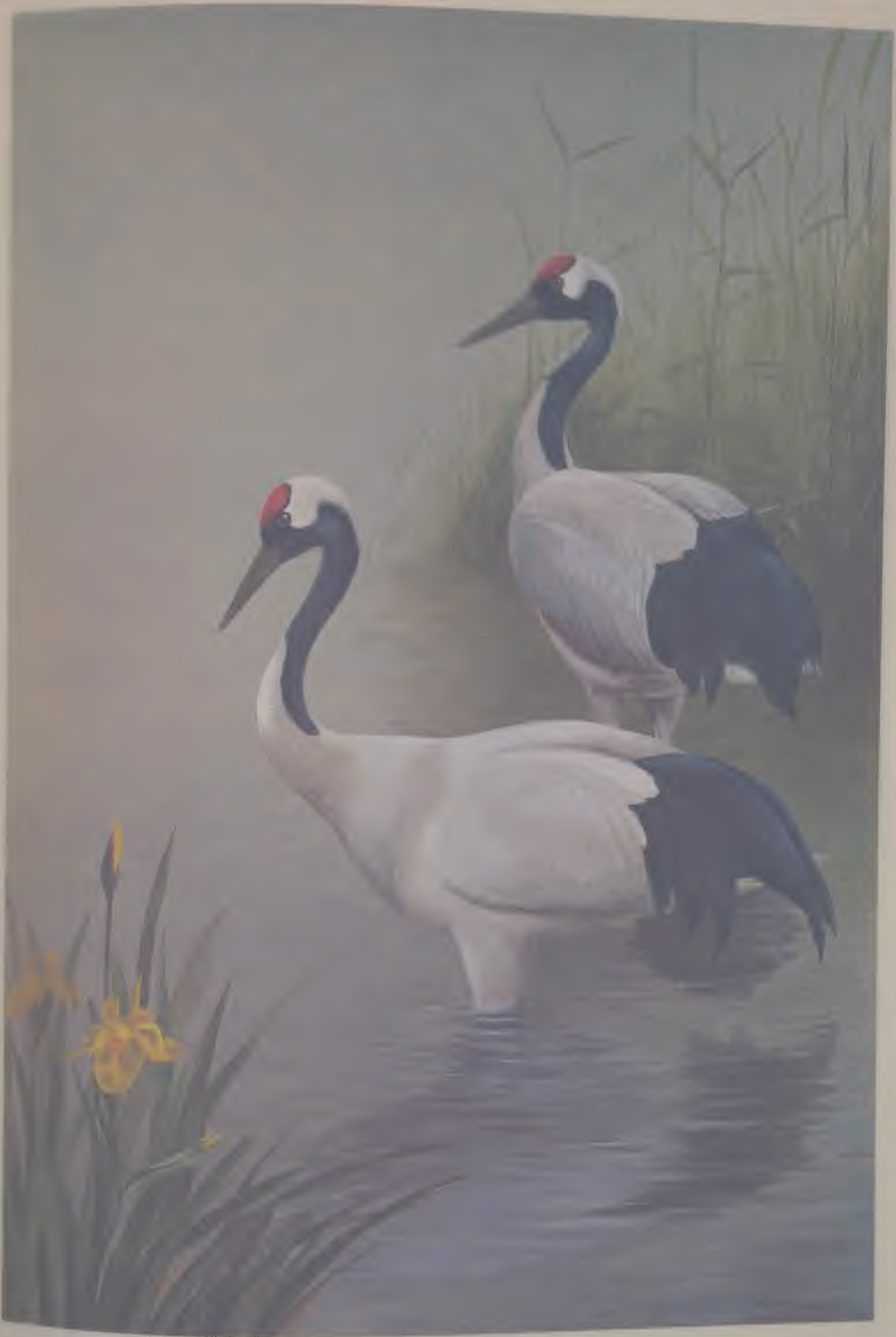
Grus japonensis

Manchurian Crane 1967

Grus japonensis

THESE very beautiful birds breeding in China and Japan do well in captivity, and live to a considerable age. They will once they have commenced to breed, continue for a number of years. Manchurian cranes were at one time at a very low ebb, but the Japanese now have sanctuaries for them and they are, as a result, increasing.





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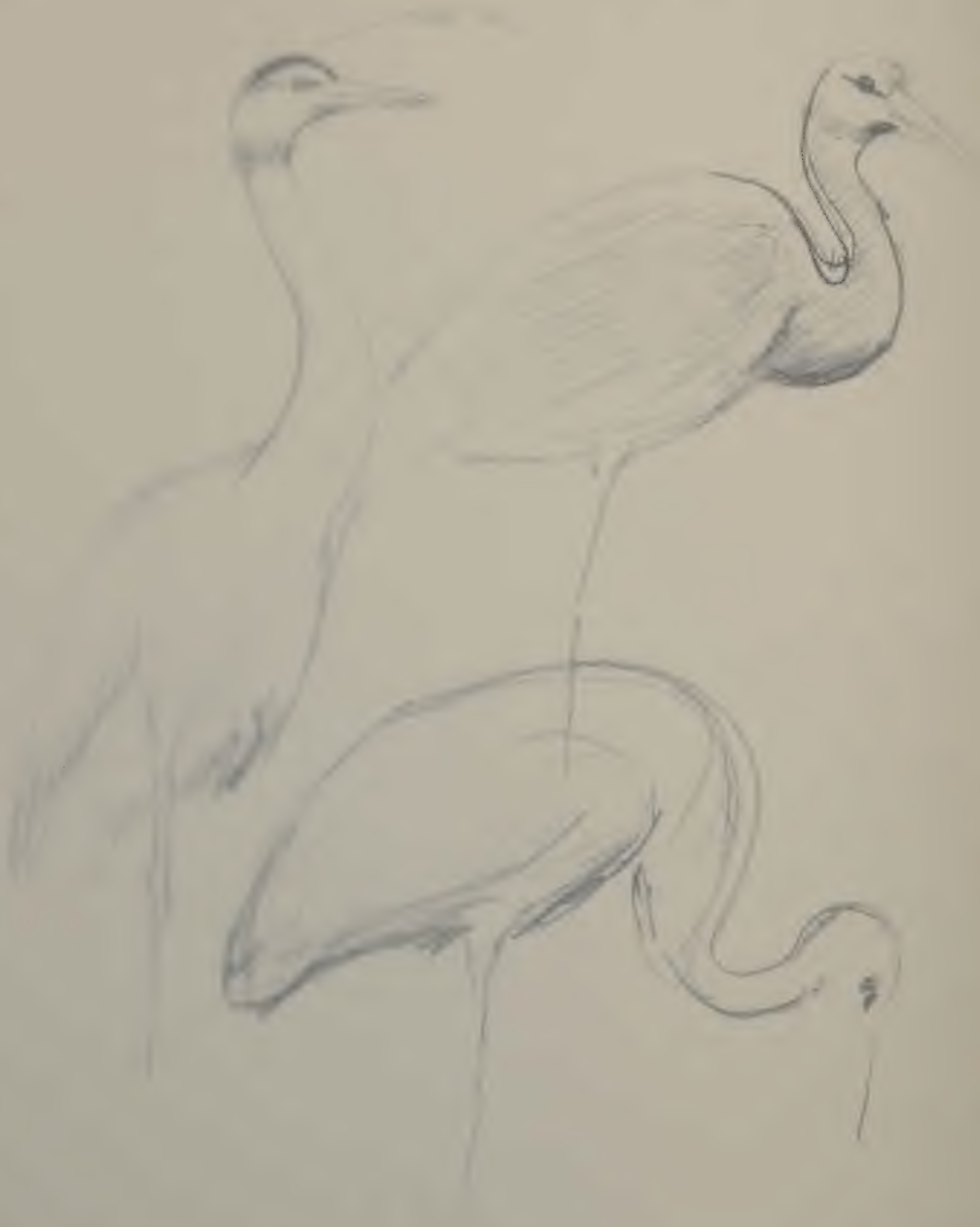


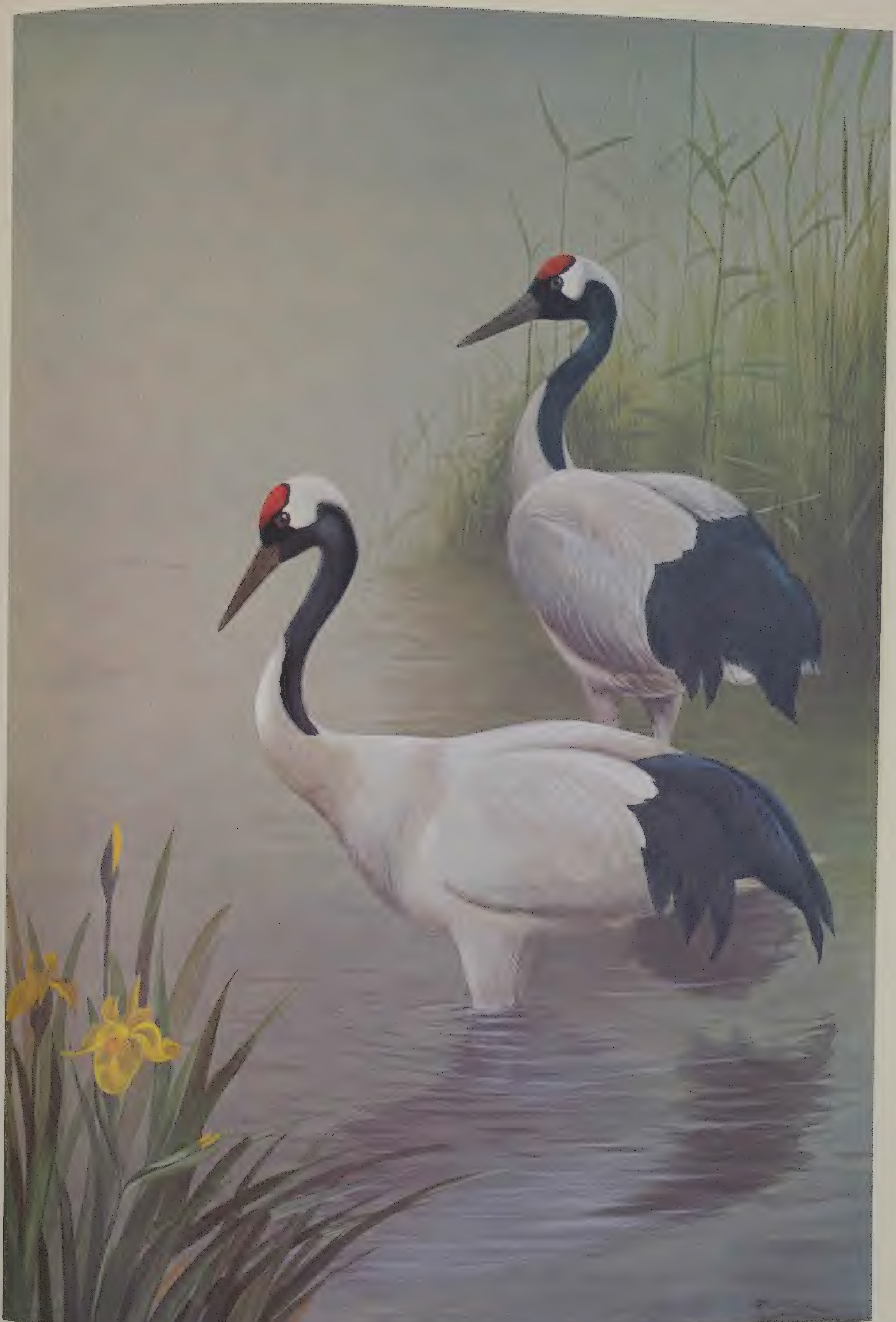


PLATE XIX

THE MISTS COMING DOWN

PTARMIGAN

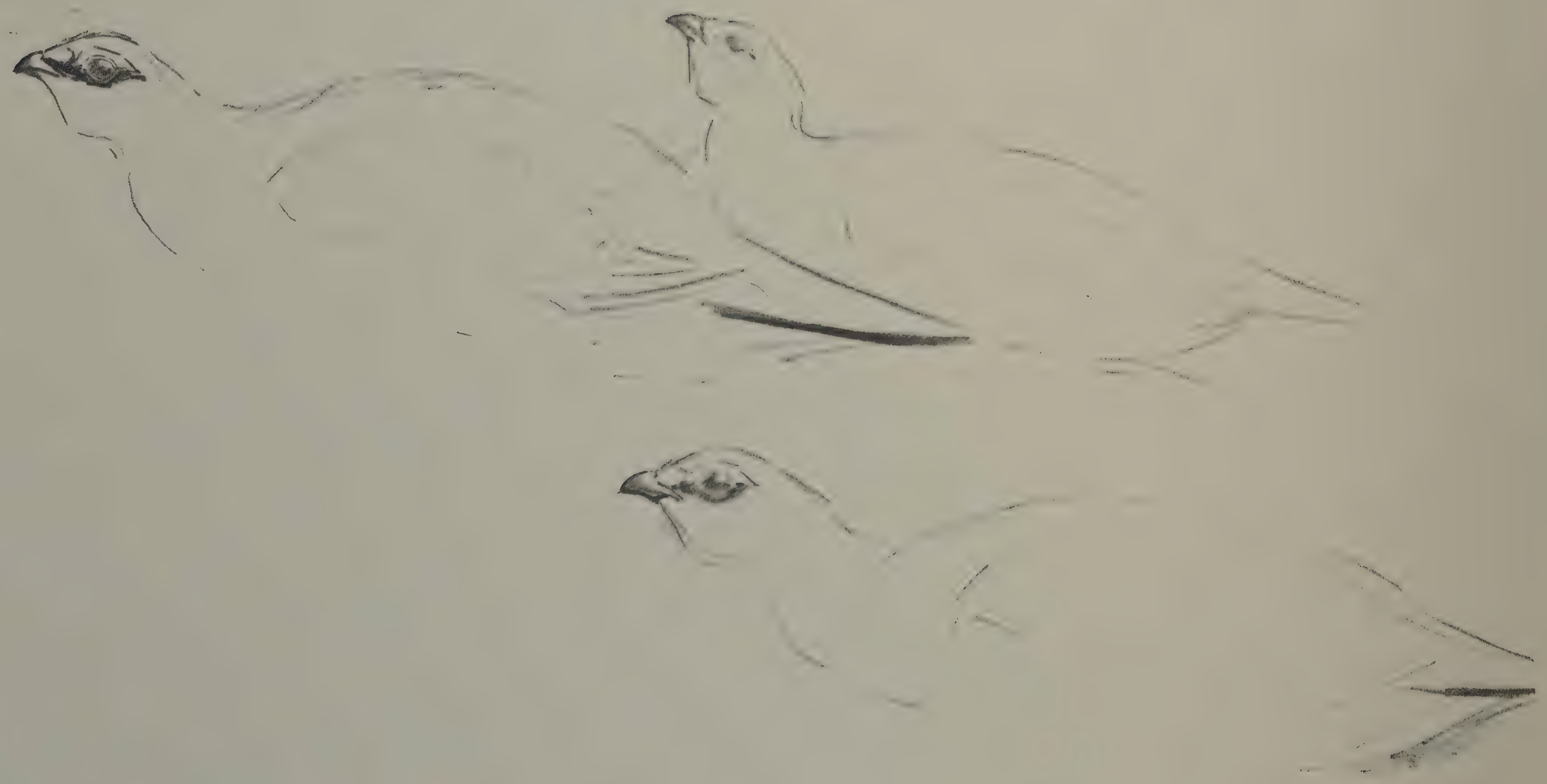
Lagopus mutus millaisi

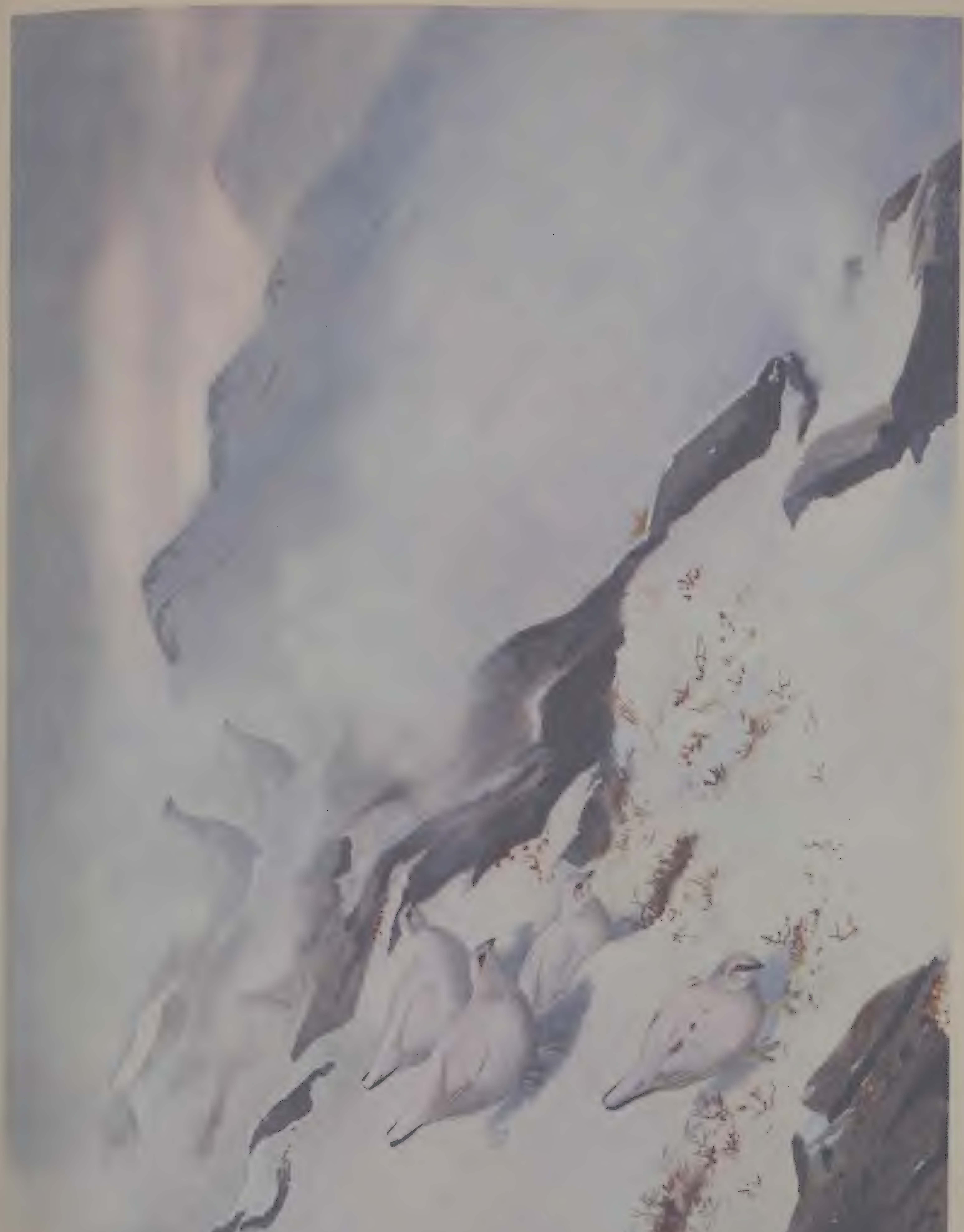
The Mists coming down (Ptarmigan) 1974

Lagopus mutus millaisi

I have made studies of these attractive birds in the Forest of Gaick, on the top of Squrr Dearq. They are exceedingly difficult to see unless the ground is scoured with glasses very carefully. The English race is not so grey in its summer and autumn plumage, and appears to be paler. On fine sunny days they are more easily approached but become very kittle in rough weather; all the same unless unhealthy they keep to the high ground even in very wintry weather, and get covered in snow when roosting. It might be said that ptarmigan are in an almost chronic state of moult as they have a distinctive summer, autumn and winter plumage. Very often birds retain a few feathers of the autumn plumage after moulting into the white of winter. I think that in all probability birds that moult early are perhaps in better health. Tail feathers and flights moult once a year; primaries, with the exception of the blackshafts, are always white.

Ptarmigan have considerable turning power in flight and are round the corner, so to speak, very quickly. The late Robert Hargreaves, who was an excellent shot, reckoned that the two most difficult shots were second barrel at driven Ptarmigan (as they could be driven at Gaick) and second barrel at Teal. The nest is often placed near a rock and is especially difficult to find.





The Mists coming down (Ptarmigan) 1974

Lagopus mutus millaisi

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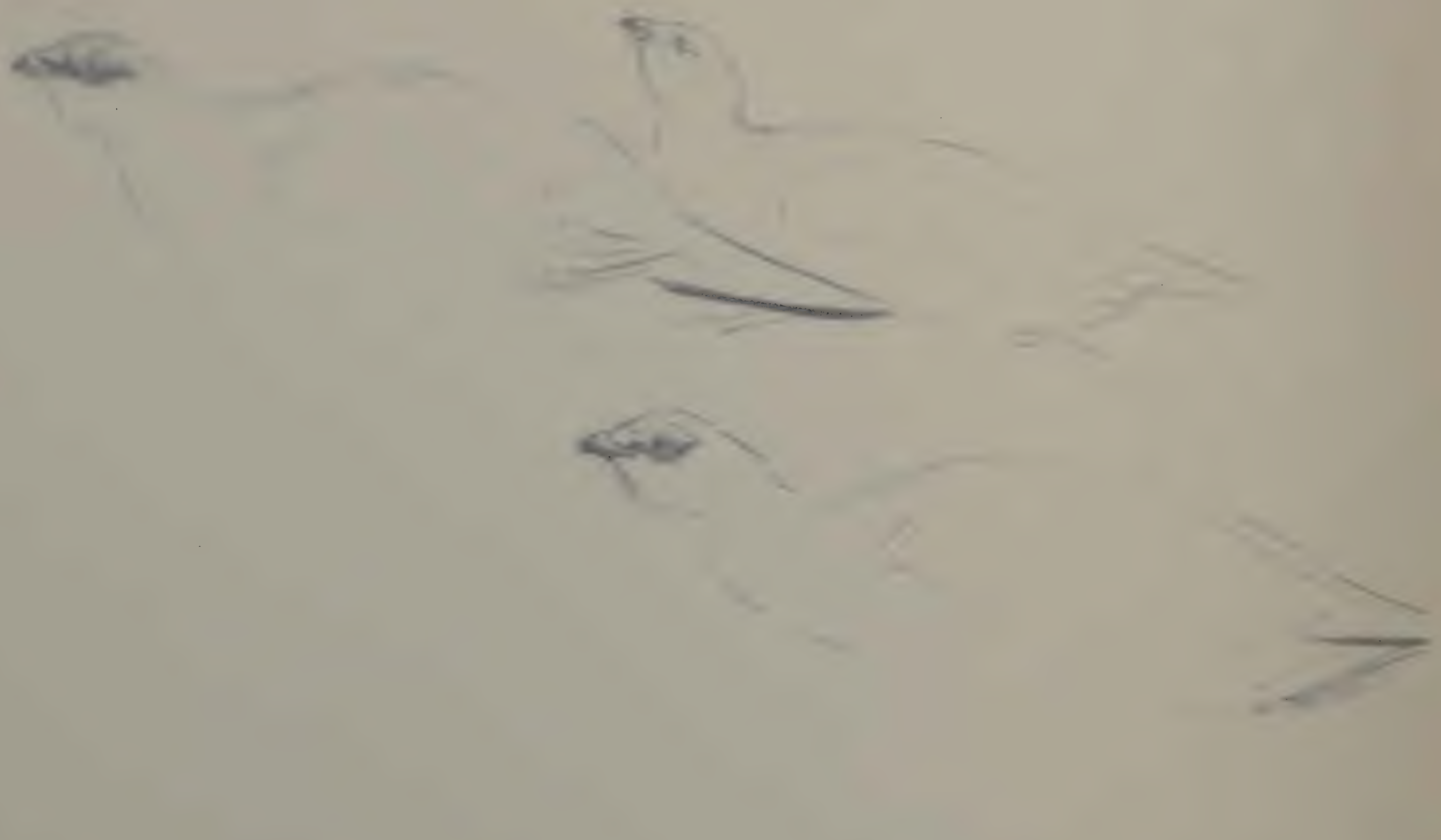


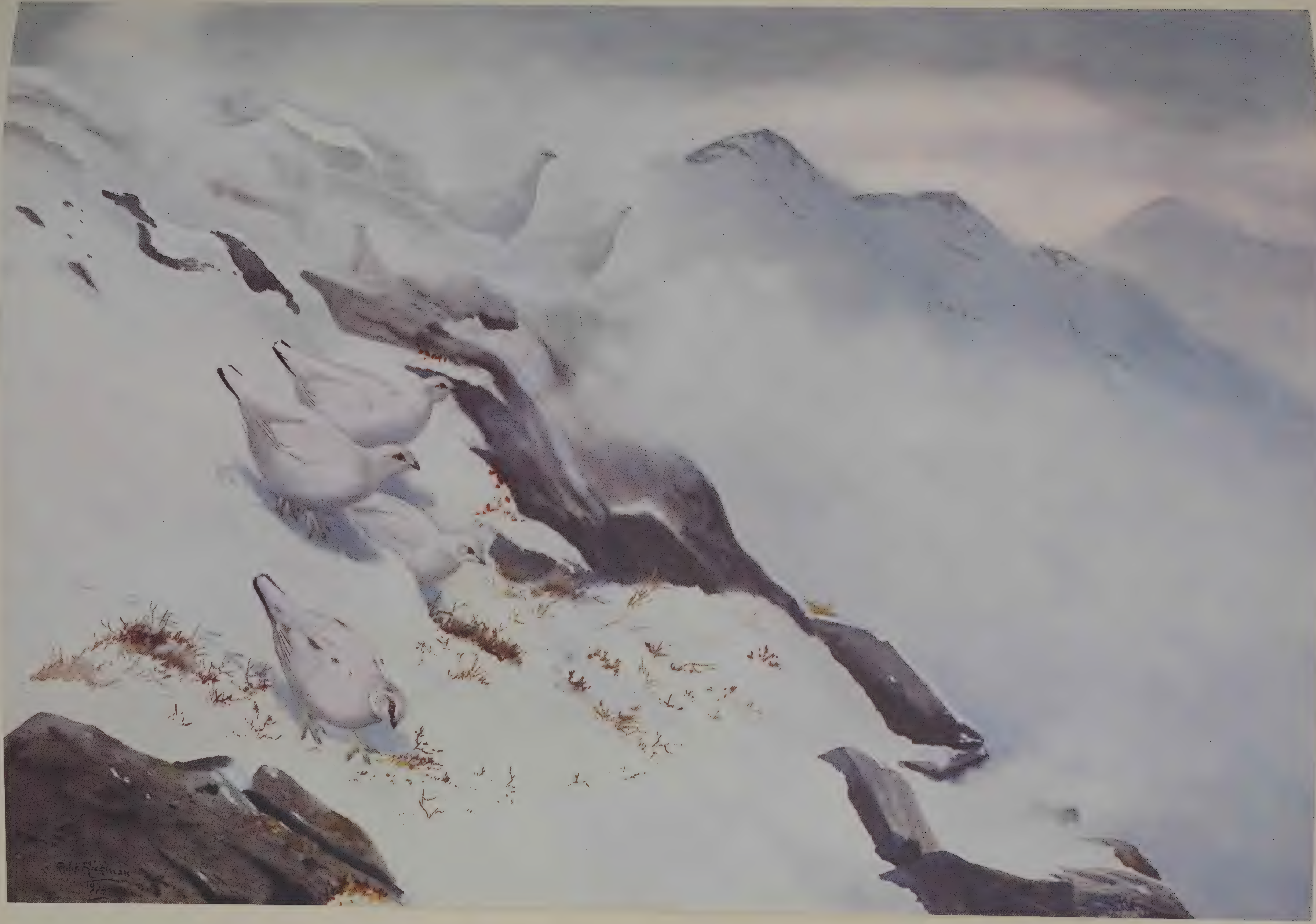


PLATE XX

FOREST OF GAICK
RED GROUSE

Lagopus lagopus scoticus

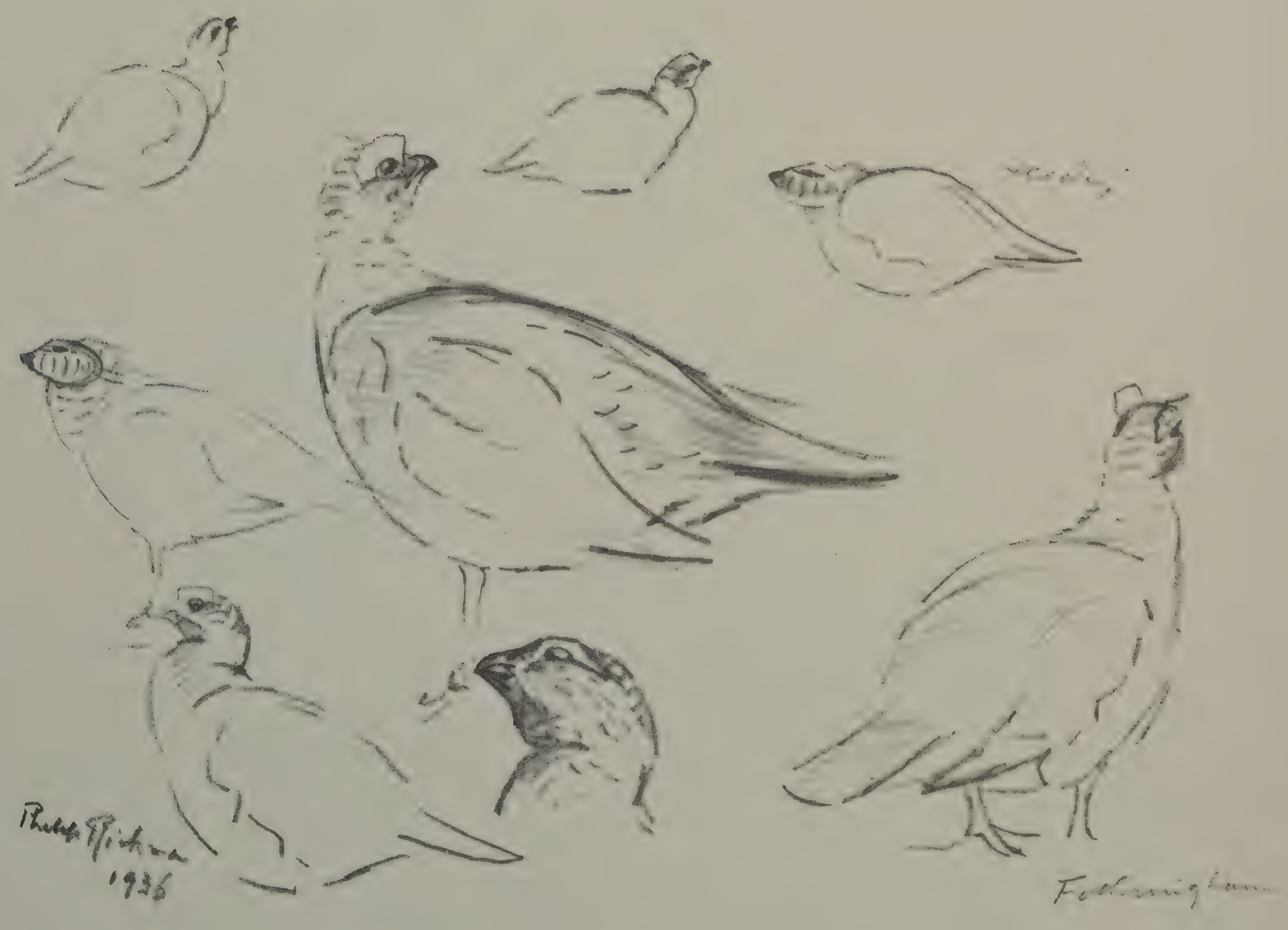
Forest of Gaick (Red Grouse) 1972

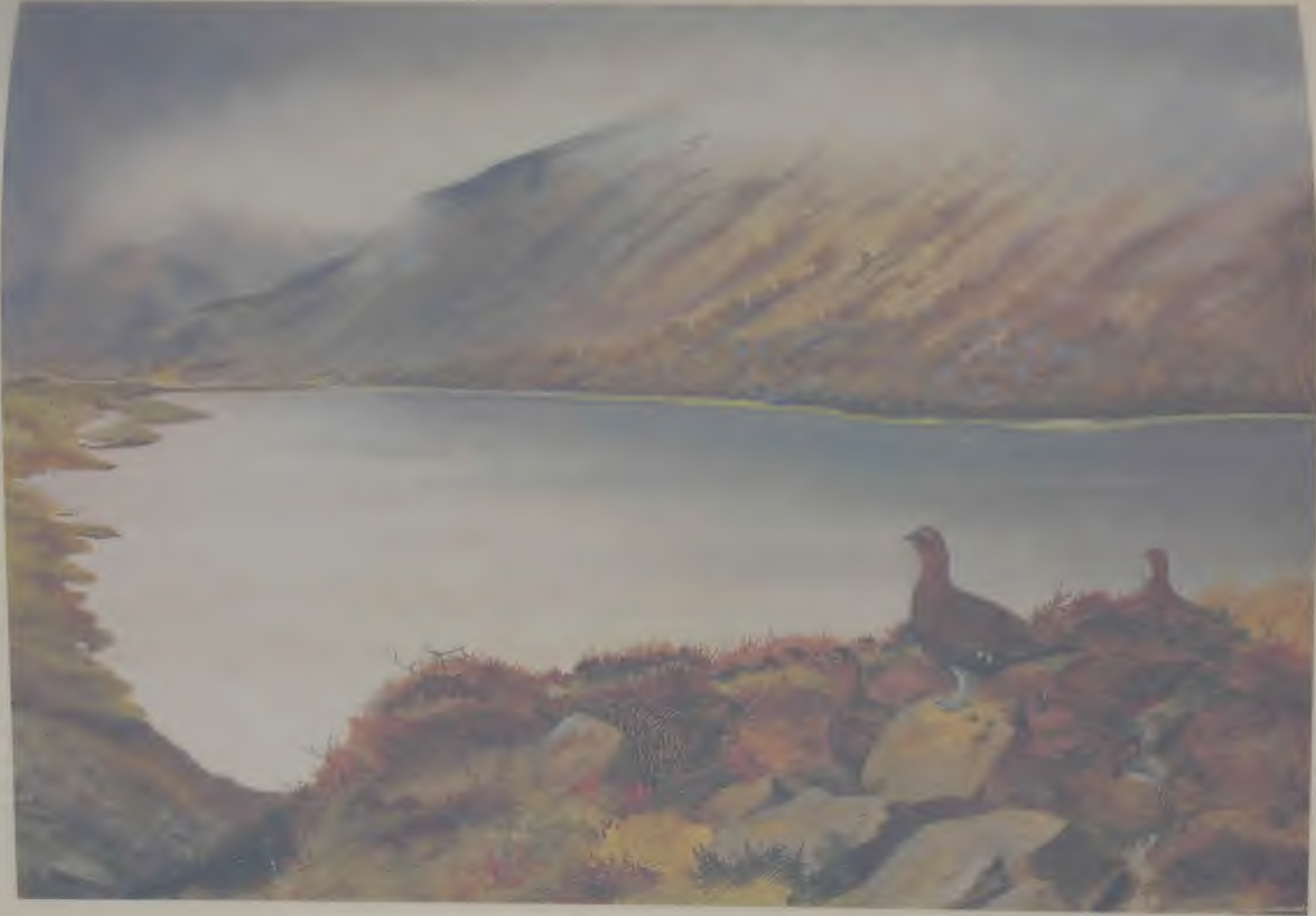
Lagopus lagopus scoticus

RED Grouse are an insular race of the Willow Grouse but do not moult into a winter plumage as Willow Grouse do. Years ago very large bags were obtained. There are less birds today on the whole; lack of keepering and the existence of vermin are two causes. The younger birds tend to pack owing to the old cocks keeping their territories clear of rivals. Grouse are easily bred in captivity given enough room on heathery ground, and a cock can manage two hens and so more chicks can be raised. The cocks become very aggressive and I noticed at Wetherby that they would fly at one's foot if put near them.

Golden Eagles and Peregrines take a certain number; I think it possible that Eagles may take the weaker birds. If a dead grouse is found with its head chewed off it has in all probability been killed by a Peregrine, as these birds do this since it stops the quarry struggling, whereas a Goshawk is indifferent to the struggles of its quarry. An odd thing about Peregrines is that if you offer a live pigeon to an eyass it will kill it at once, whereas a haggard which has probably killed many pigeons and other flying quarry will be very nervous and apparently frightened. (A haggard is, of course, a wild falcon that has been caught; probably in Holland.)

The background in the plate is of Loch an Sielacht in the Forest of Gaick.





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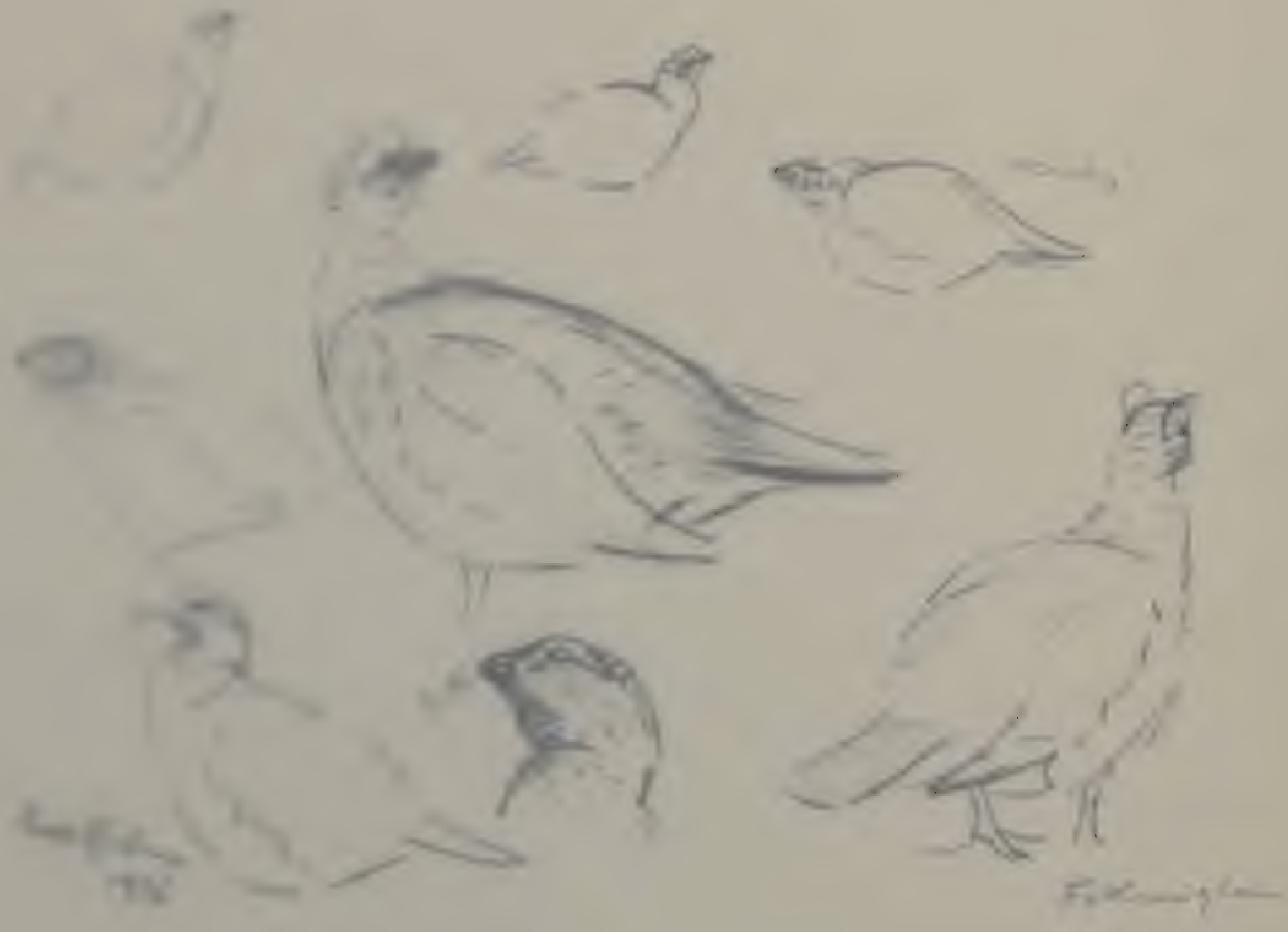


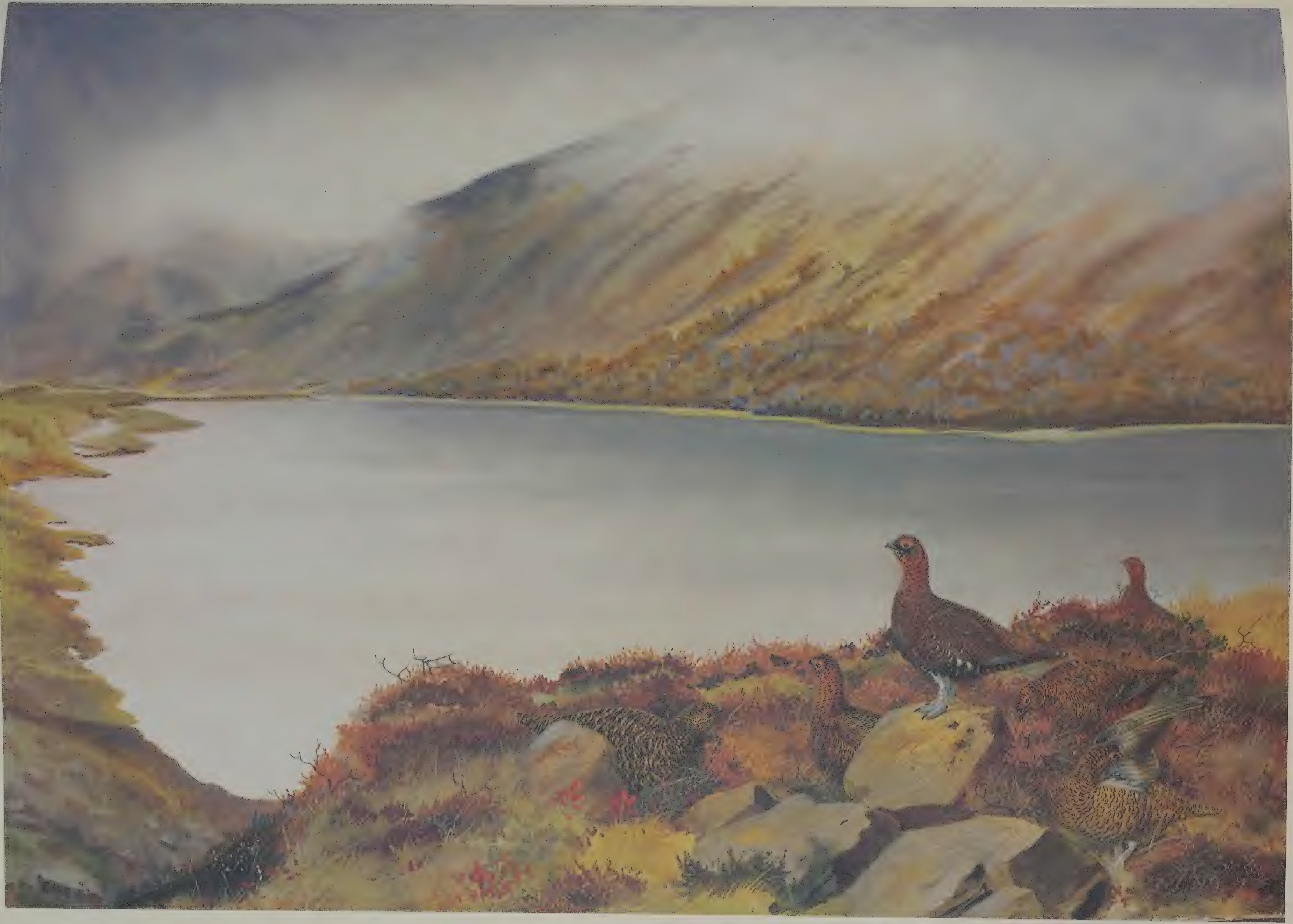


PLATE XXI

AUTUMN-BALNABOTH
BLACK GAME

Tetrao tetrix

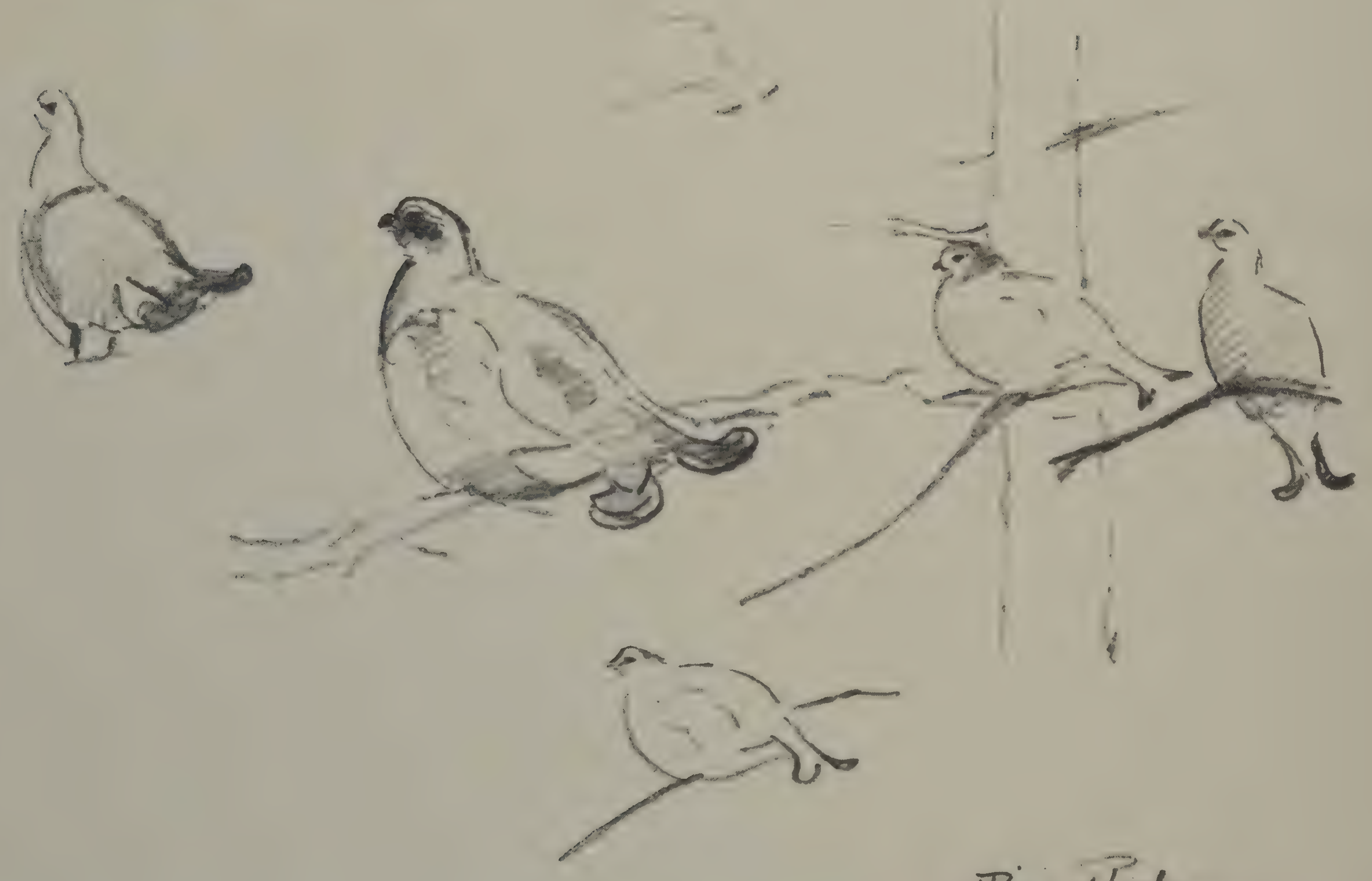
Autumn – Balnabooth (Blackgame) 1977
Tetrao tetrix

THE blackcock is a very attractive bird and it is both interesting and amusing to watch when they gather together in the grey of morning at the lek. I have arrived just as the early grey of morning breaks – often frosty – and the dark forms flying in take shape in the gathering light. Each bird has its stance with raised and spread tail, drooping wings and the comb over the eyes very prominent. Their calls carry a long way.

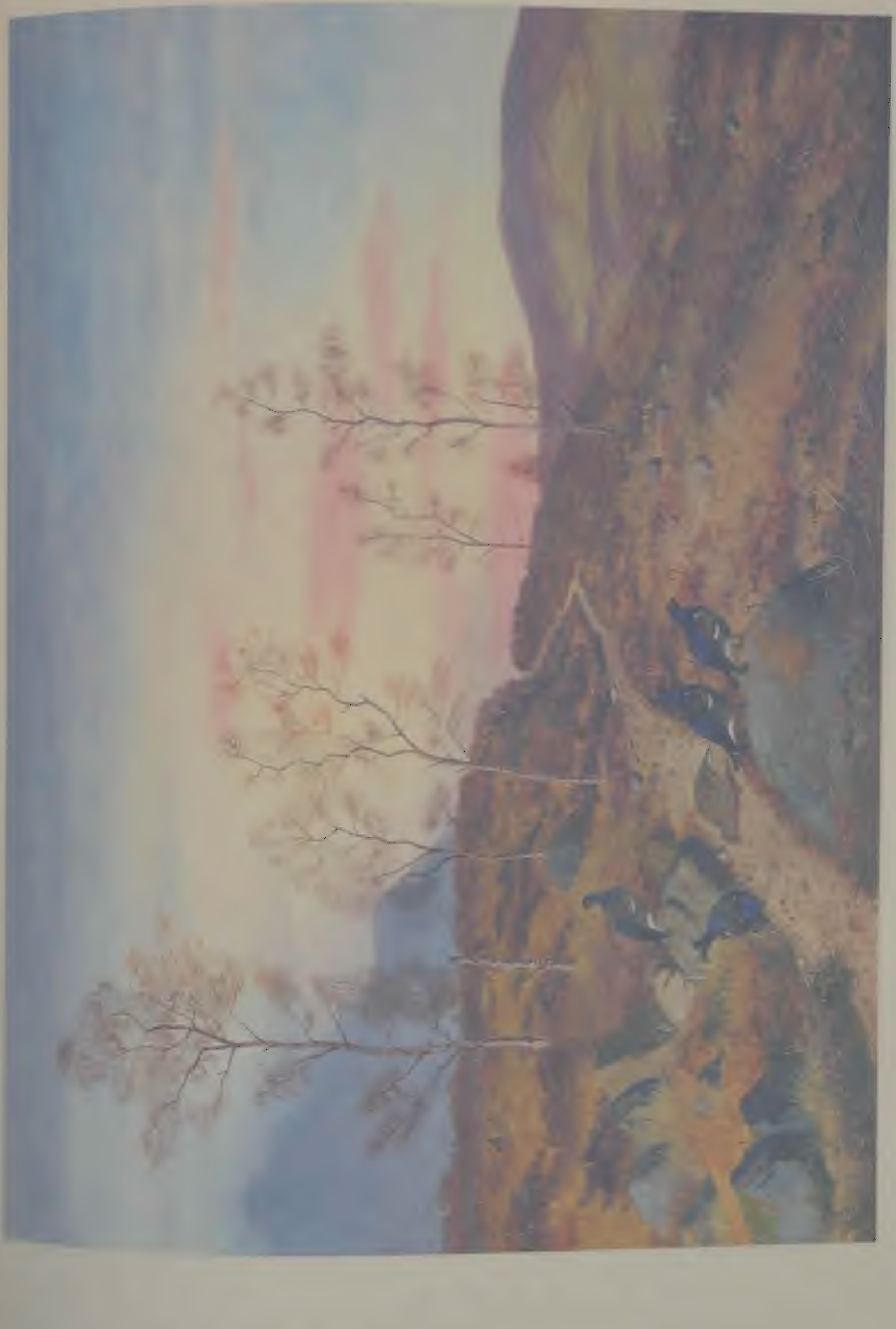
The excitement increases as the grey hens fly in; there is a certain amount of fighting and sparring amongst the males. I have never seen more than what might be called scuffles, but they do get up in the air and go for each other; however having no spurs not much damage is done. I think it can be said that the strongest cocks mate more often than the weaker birds.

The blackcocks take no part in rearing the young, which are very difficult to raise in captivity, but at Netherby, in very large pens or remises, old Bell the head keeper was successful. Blackgame are liable to the same diseases as grouse, and do better when there are enough birds together at the lek; it seems necessary to have a number to stimulate pairing just as a large rookery seems to do better than a small one.

20/4/32. Balnaboth



Philip Rickman
1932



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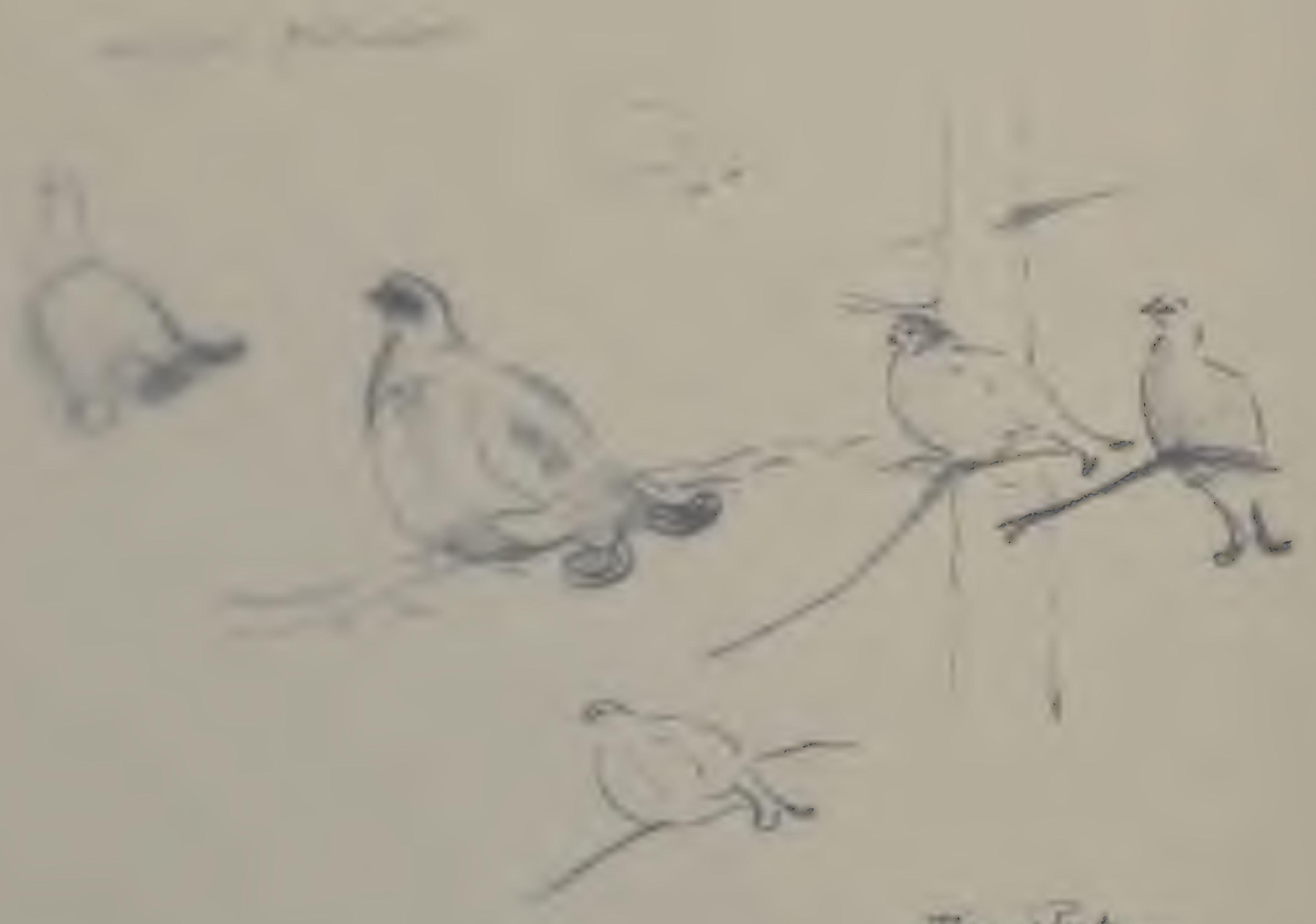


Philip Rickman 1952

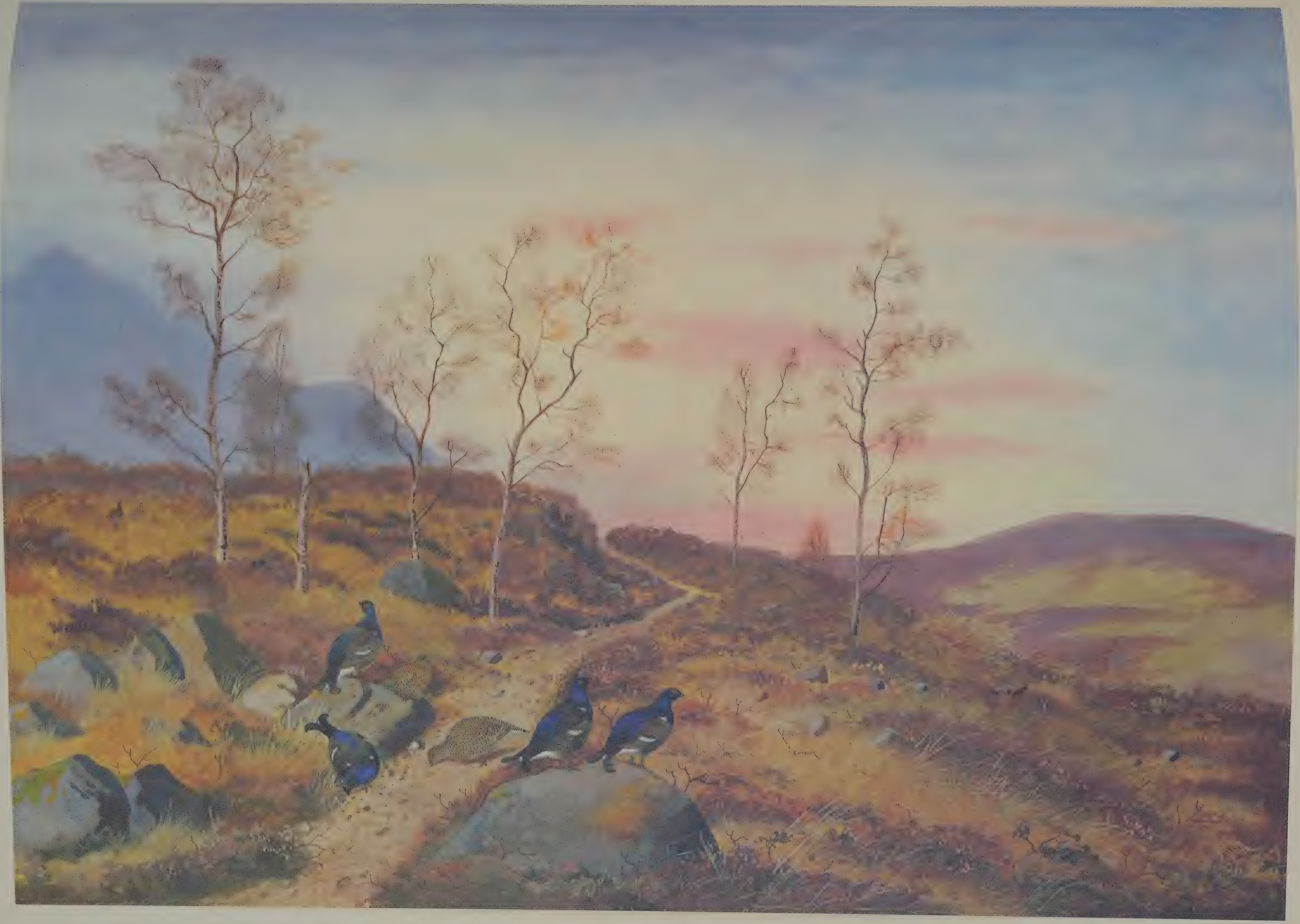


PLATE XXII

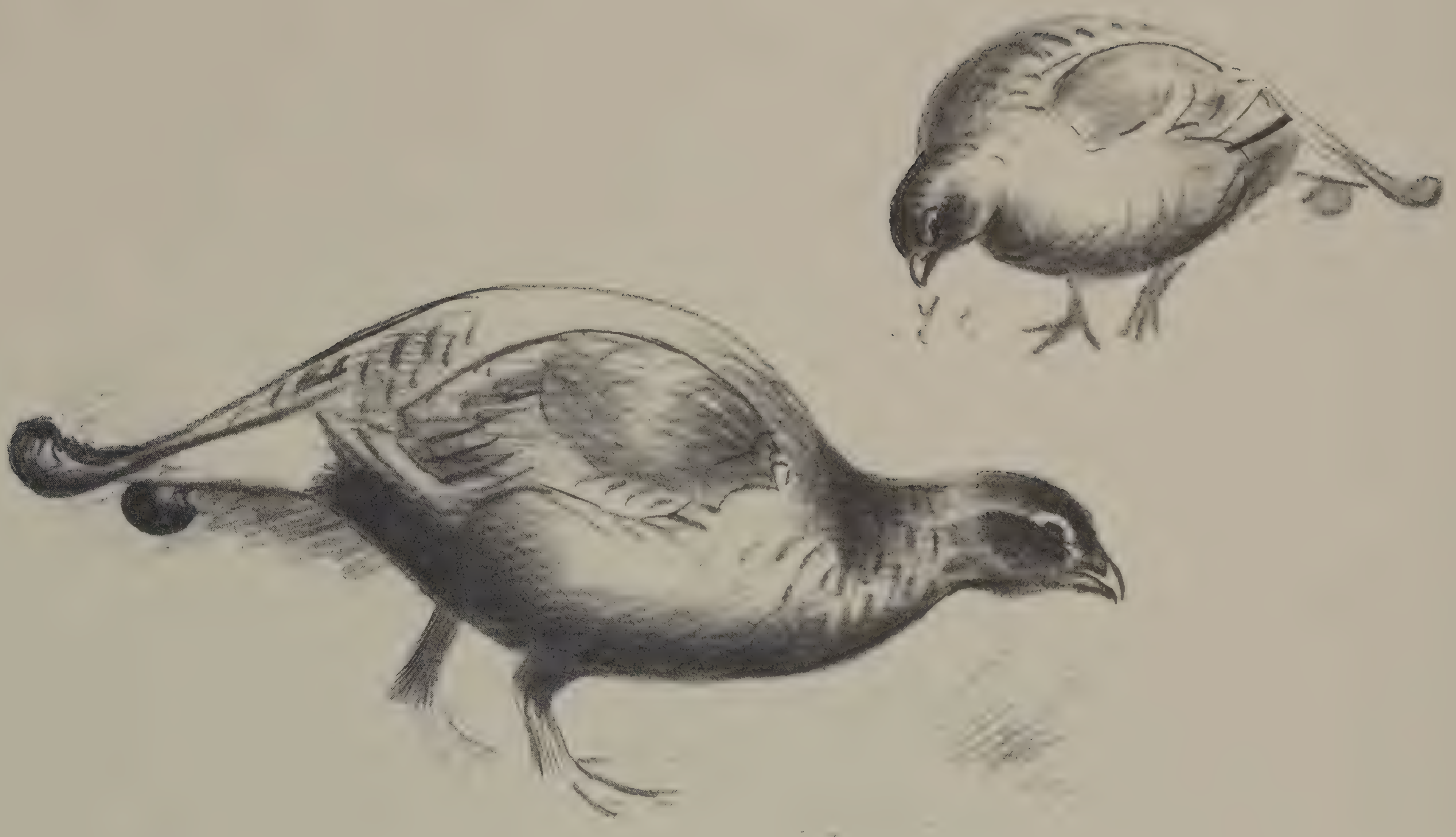
A WINTER'S DAY-BALNABOTH

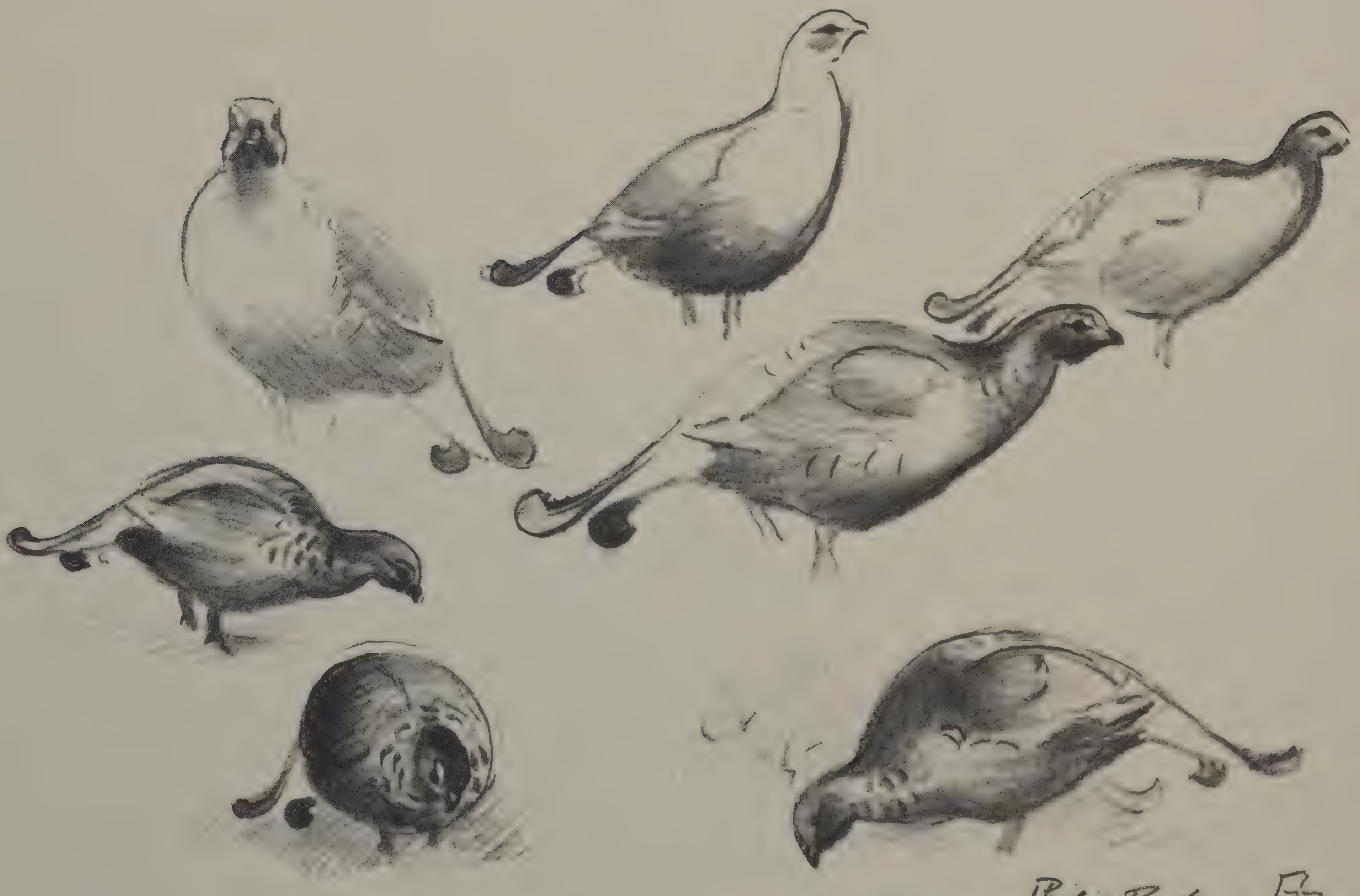
BLACK GAME

Tetrao tetrix

A Winters Day – Balnabooth (Blackgame) 1954

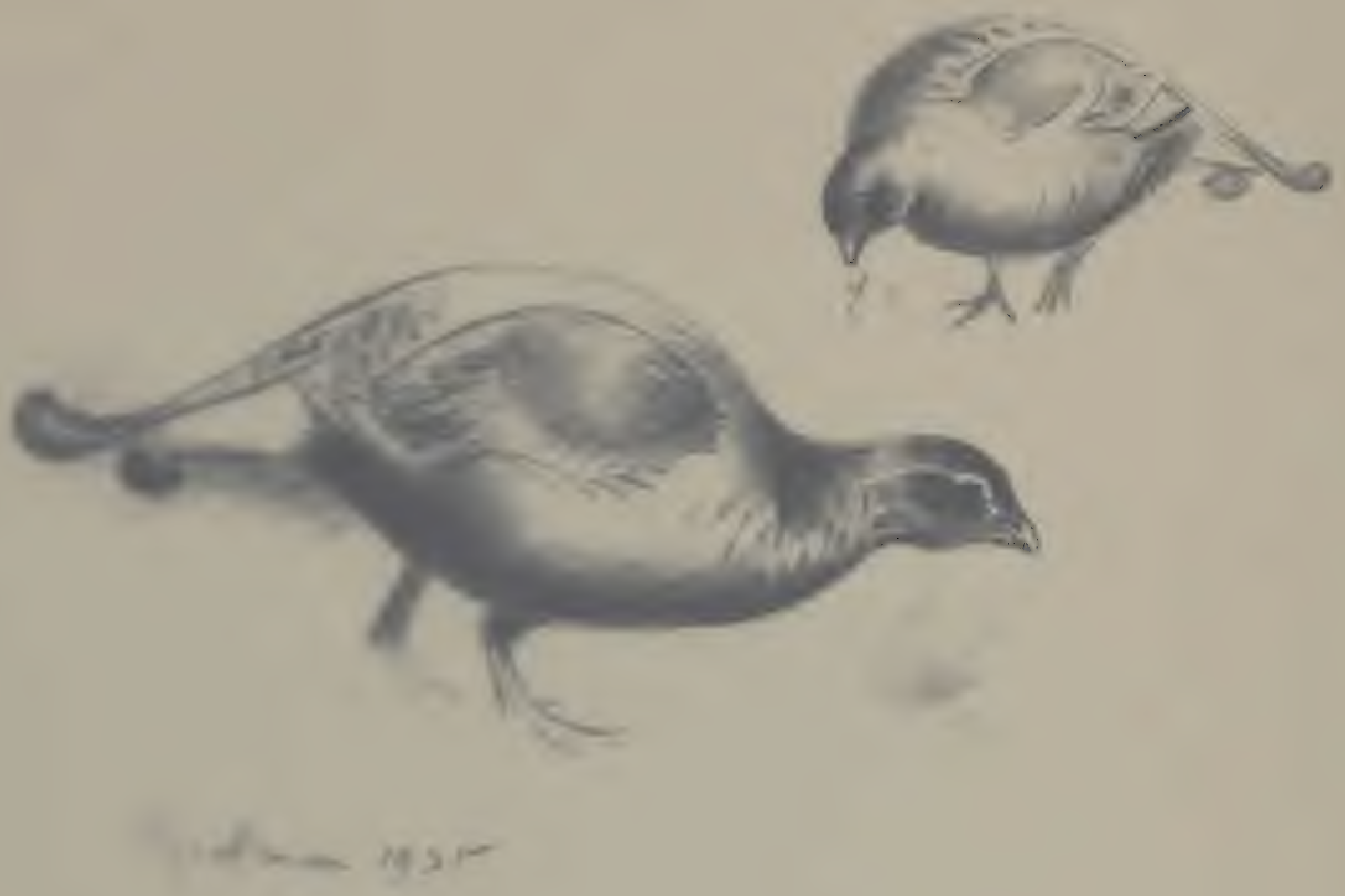
Tetrao tetrix

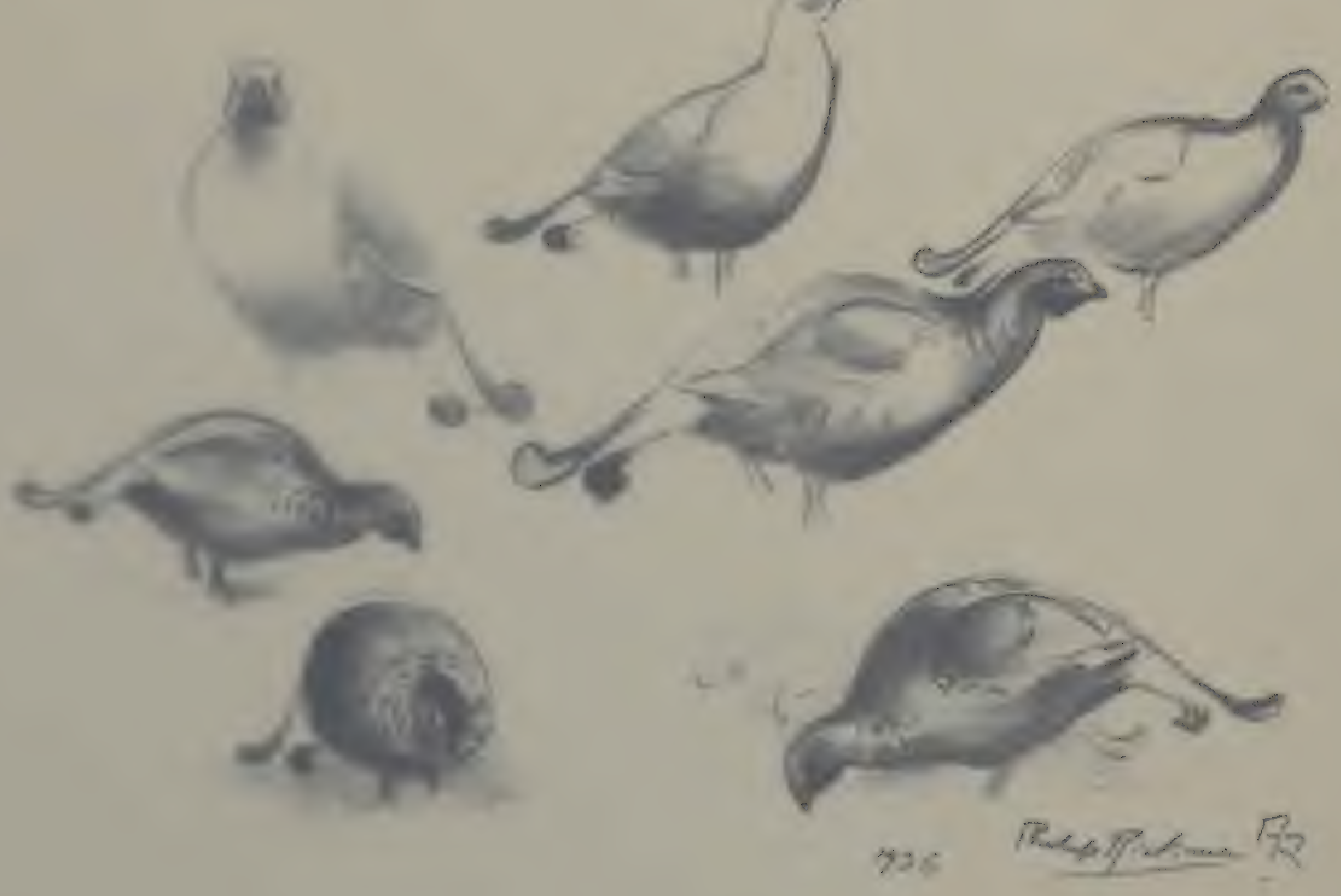

PRickman 1935


1936
Philip Rickman PR

A Winters Day – Balnabooth (Blackgame) 1954

Tetrao tetrix





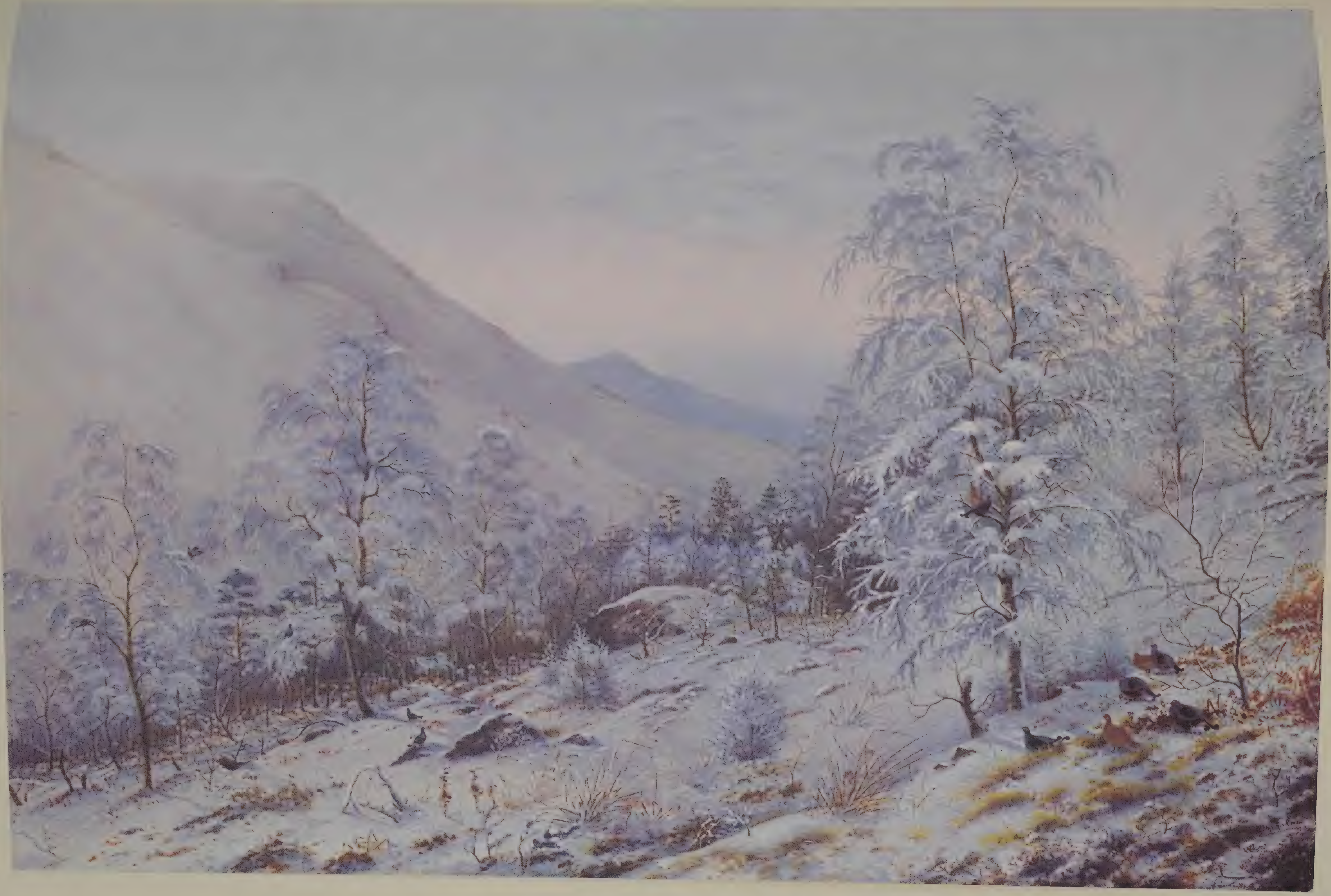


PLATE XXIII

WINTER EVENING
PARTRIDGES

Perdix perdix perdix

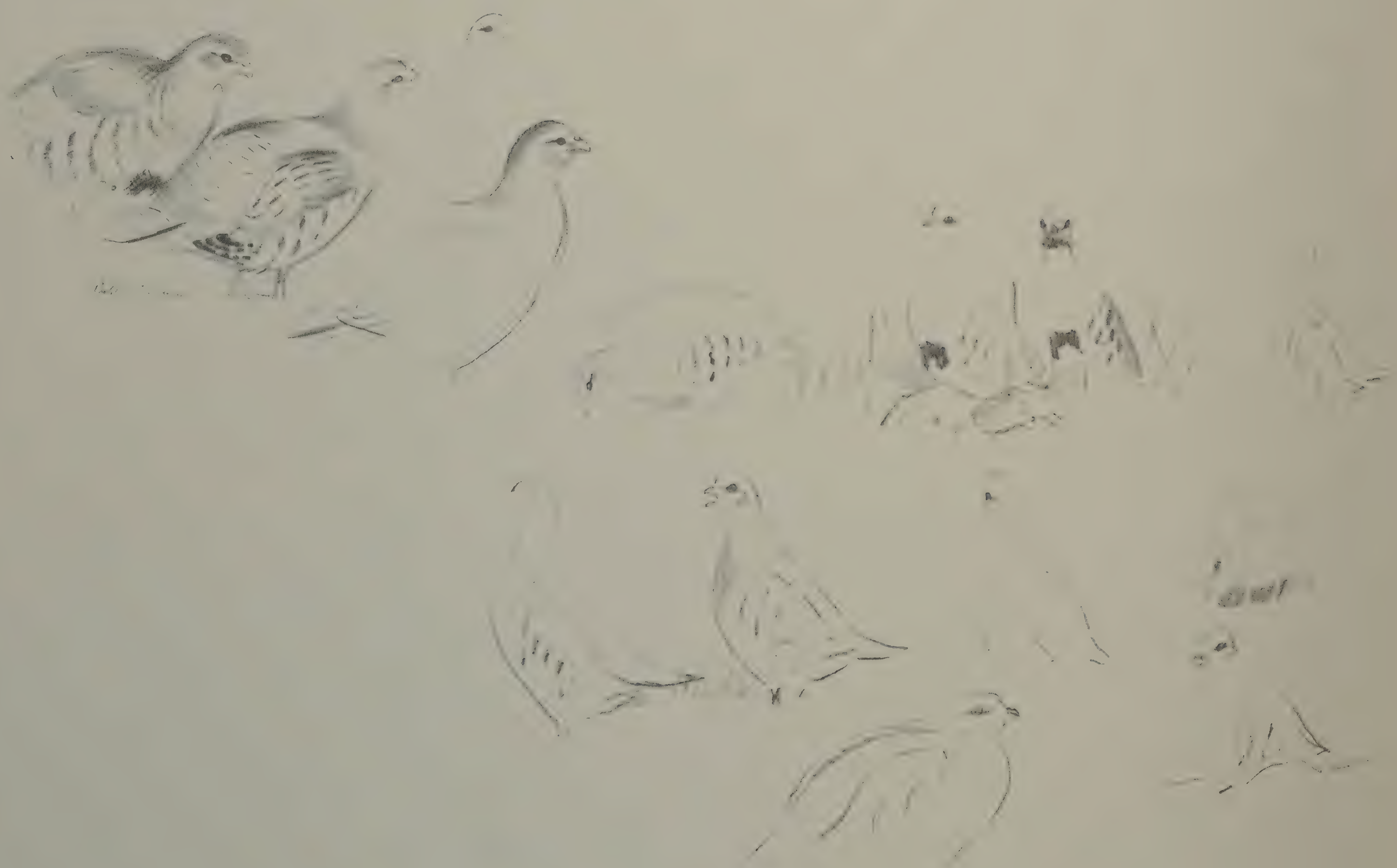
Winter Evening (Partridges) 1974

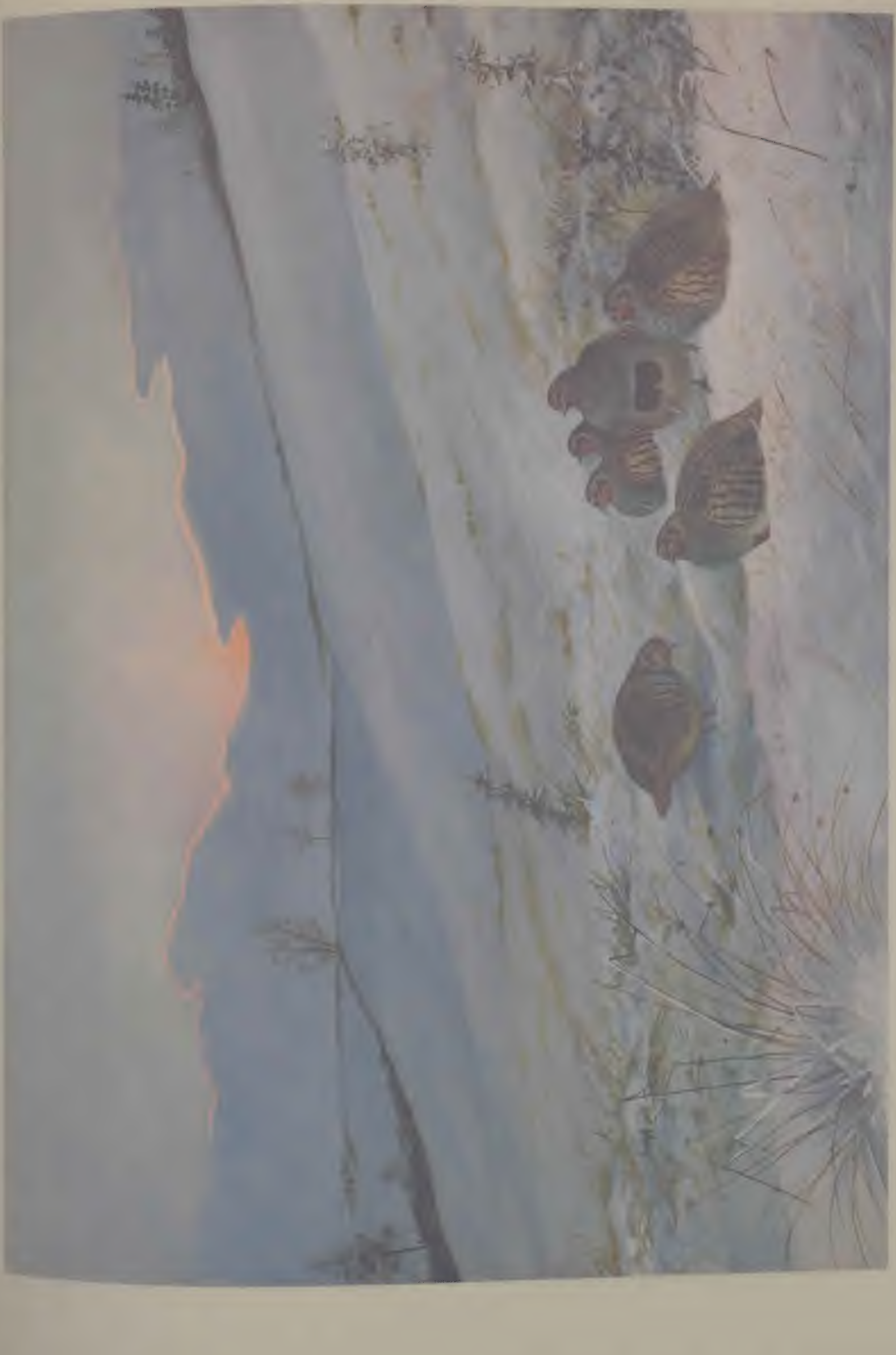
Perdix perdix perdix

PARTRIDGES used to be very common, and enormous bags have been made at the Grange, Six Mile Bottom, Holkham and various shoots in Norfolk, Suffolk and Hampshire. Partridges are splendid parents and if seasons are favourable large coveys result. Today, modern methods of farming, loss of hedgerows with their attractive headlands – full of insect life on which, during their early life, the chicks are dependent – and the burning of stubble which destroys unharvested grain, have enormously reduced the partridge population of England.

I think the call of a cock partridge on a spring evening is a very attractive sound, seldom heard today, and sadly to my mind recalls an England that has gone. Cock partridges will fight and spur, but having no spurs it generally seems to end that he who runs away may live to fight another day. Cock partridges are also very good parents and will bring up a brood very well on their own. Owners of Partridge Manors took advantage of this and the Euston system was followed a good deal. There have been various but not common plumage varieties of which I gave several illustrations in *The Gun Room Guide* by Hugh Pollard. It has been argued that French Partridges master the grey, but I doubt this, as grey partridges are very courageous and will defend their young to the end.

Cold wet springs are the worst enemies of young partridges; insecticides are very deleterious, and it is, of course, essential to keep down vermin.





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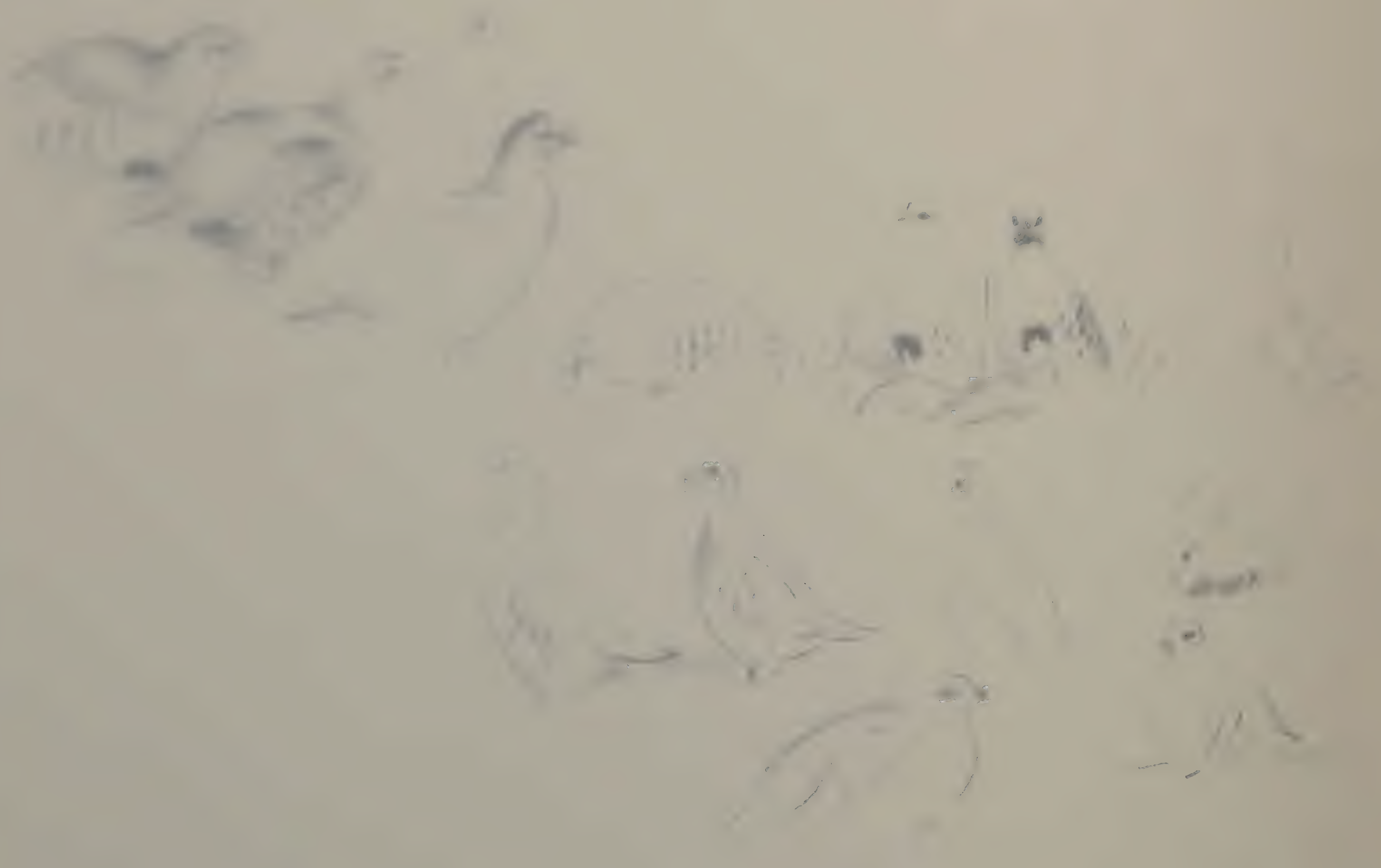


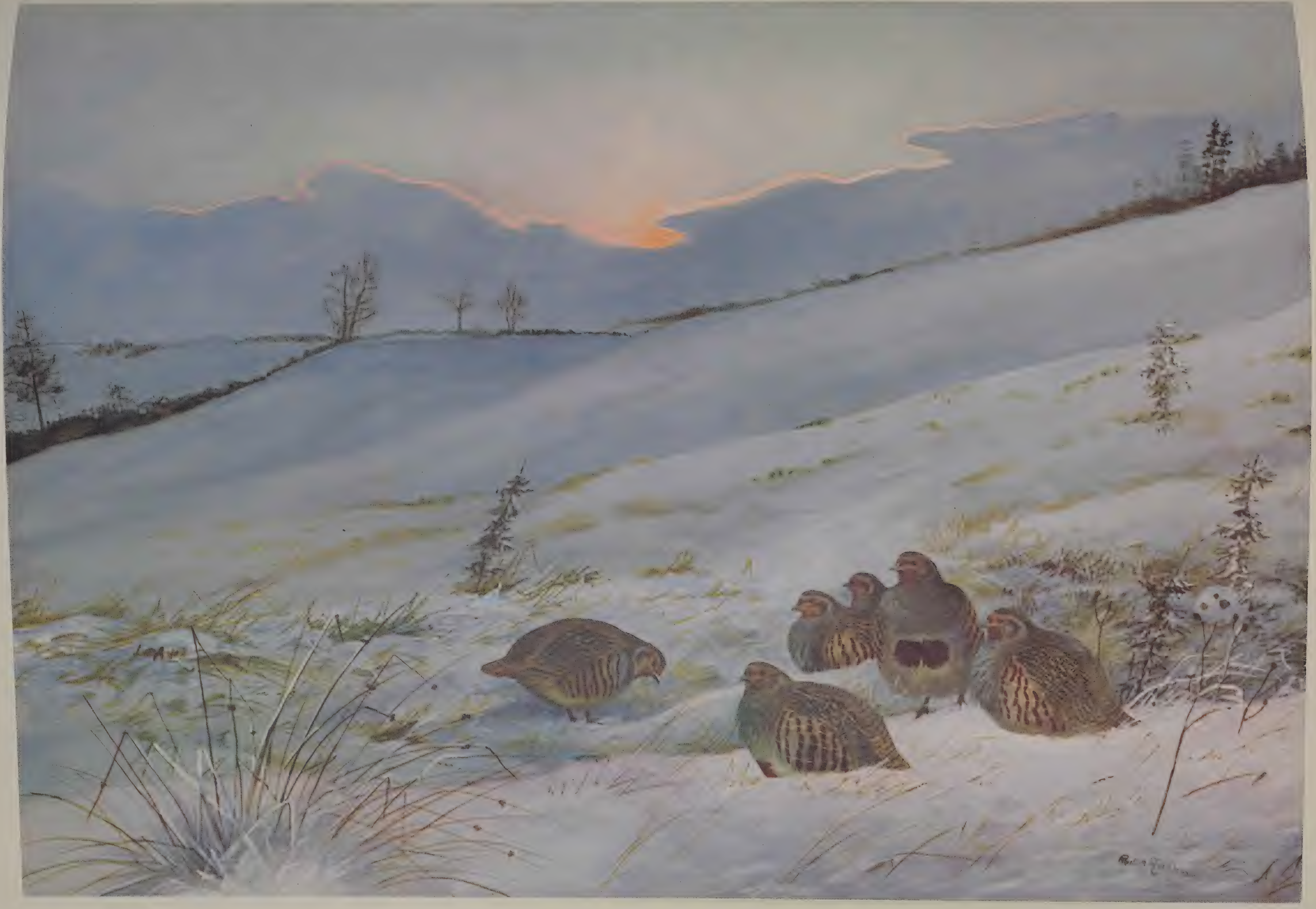


PLATE XXIV

THEY HAVE FOUND THE CORN

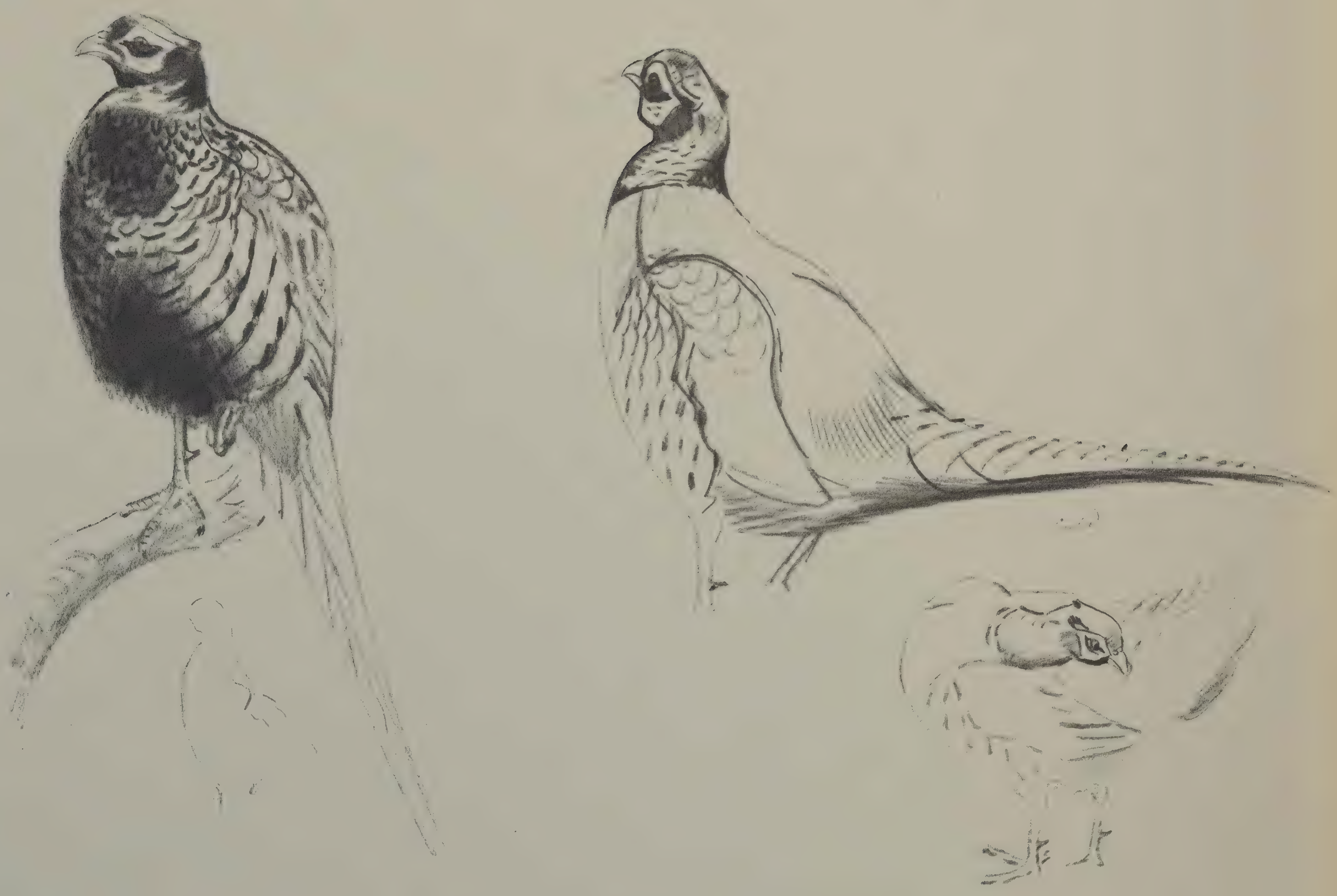
PHEASANTS

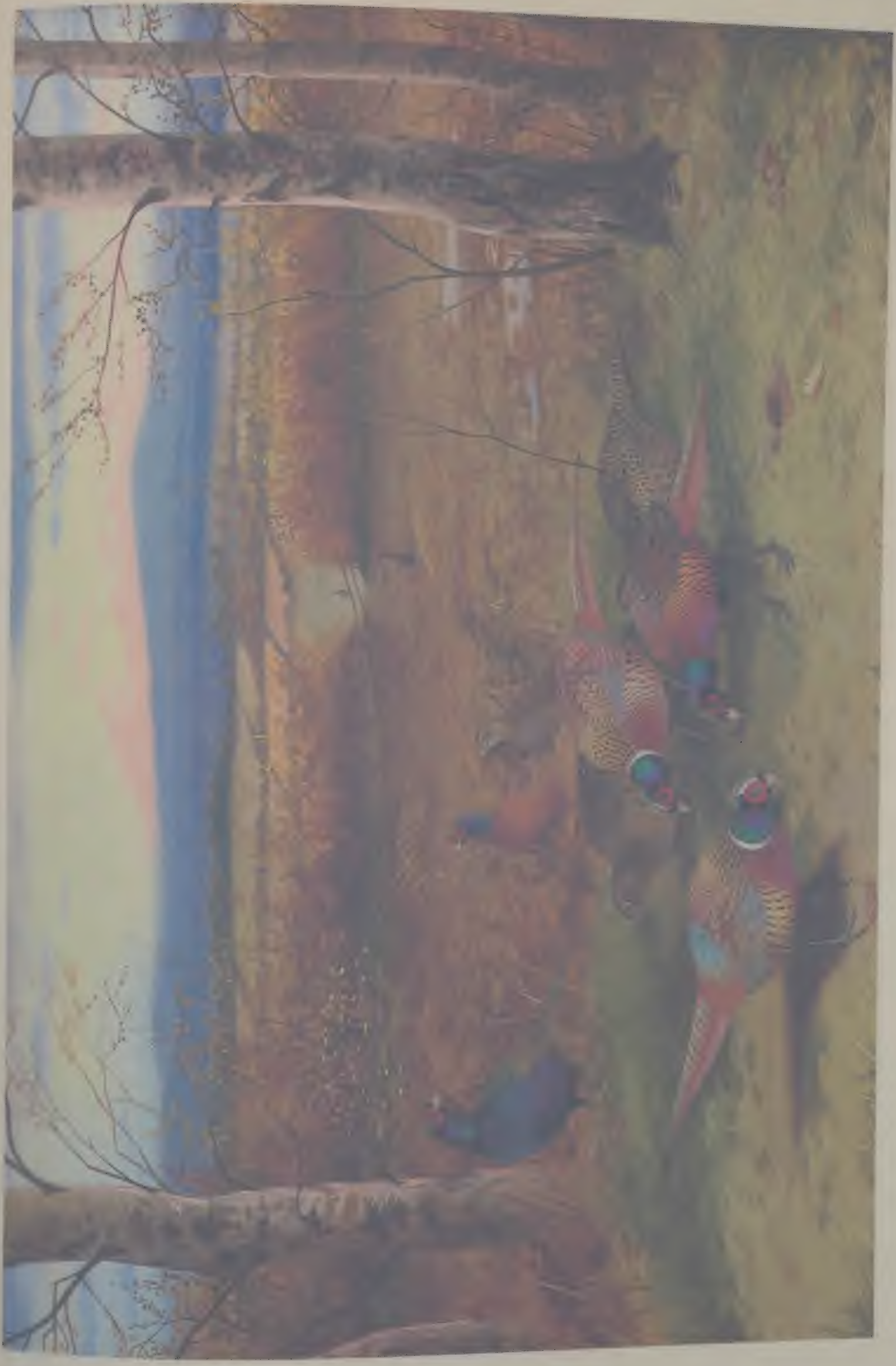
Phasianus colchicus

They have found the Corn (Pheasants) 1961

Phasianus colchicus

THE Pheasants in our coverts are by and large all hybrids, various species of Pheasant have been imported by game farmers over many years now. The old English Pheasant has no ring, and is much darker than the Chinese. As to the Melanistic Mutant, these are very handsome birds and of a good size; some keepers maintain that they are not such good fliers and stray. My view is that marked birds always get that reputation. In 1935 the late Sir Richard Graham wrote to me, "It must be more than twenty years since I first saw the Mutant Pheasant and about thirty since I got some Japanese cock Pheasants to put in the pens at Wetherby". These dark birds were first noted by the late Lord Rothschild in 1888 and the type was fixed. The hens are very dark and both sexes tend to have pale yellowish patches on the soles of their feet. The chicks are very dark. This plate will show up the differences where fairly true members of the family (Chinese and Old English) are together with a cock mutant. The Pheasants of our coverts never seem to become really tame as for instance Tragopans do; I have seen these birds take food from the hand quite readily.





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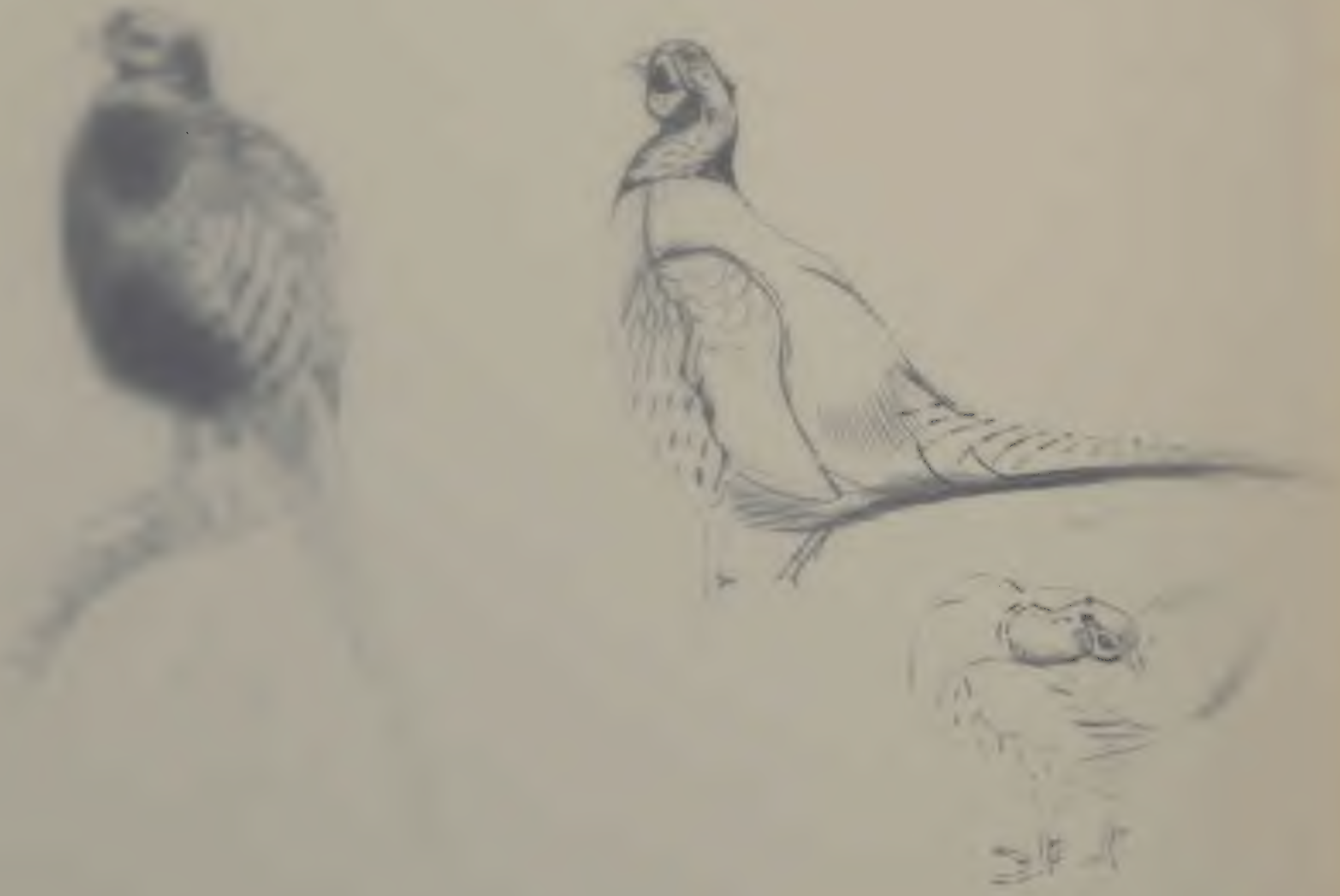


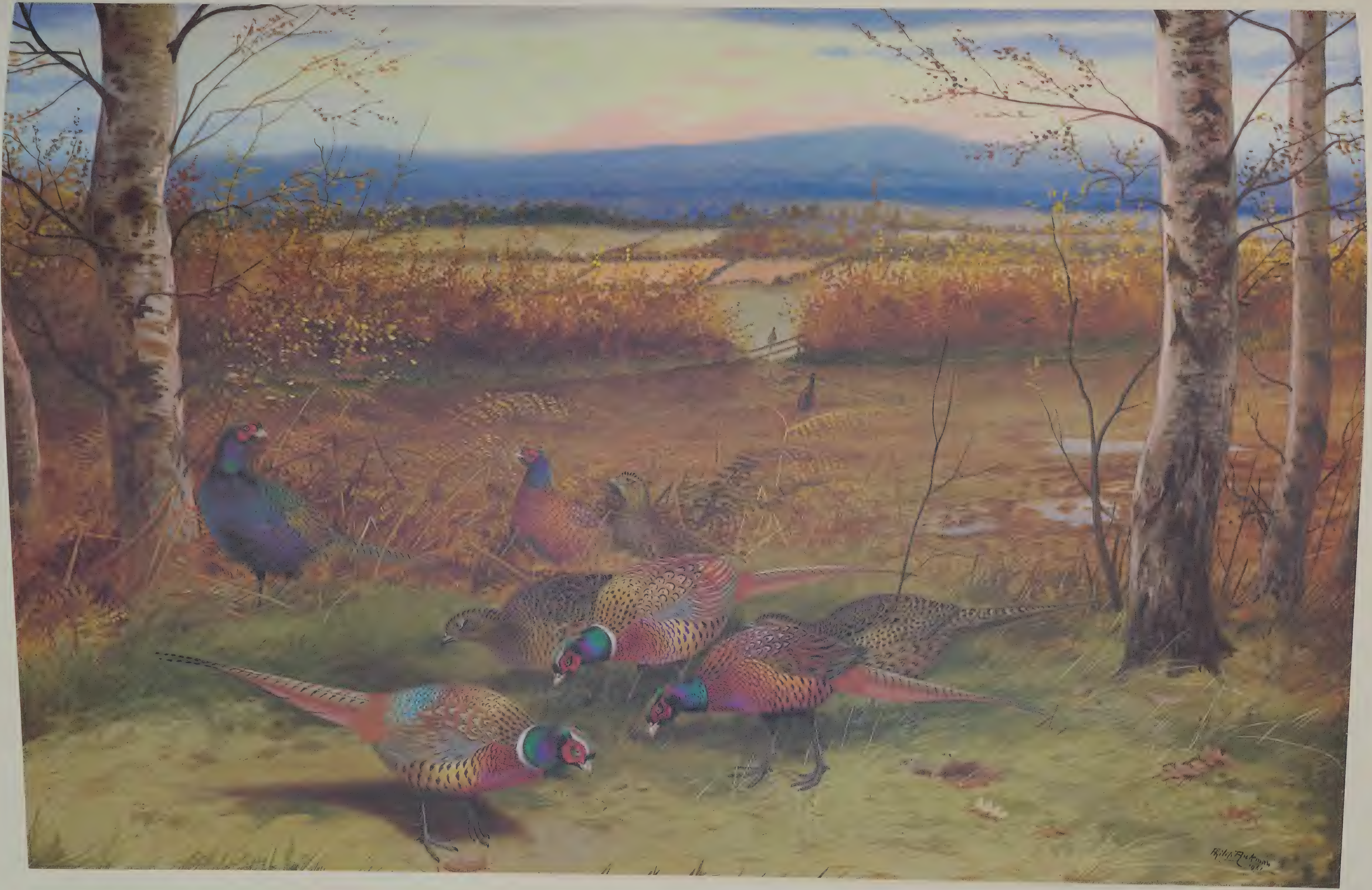
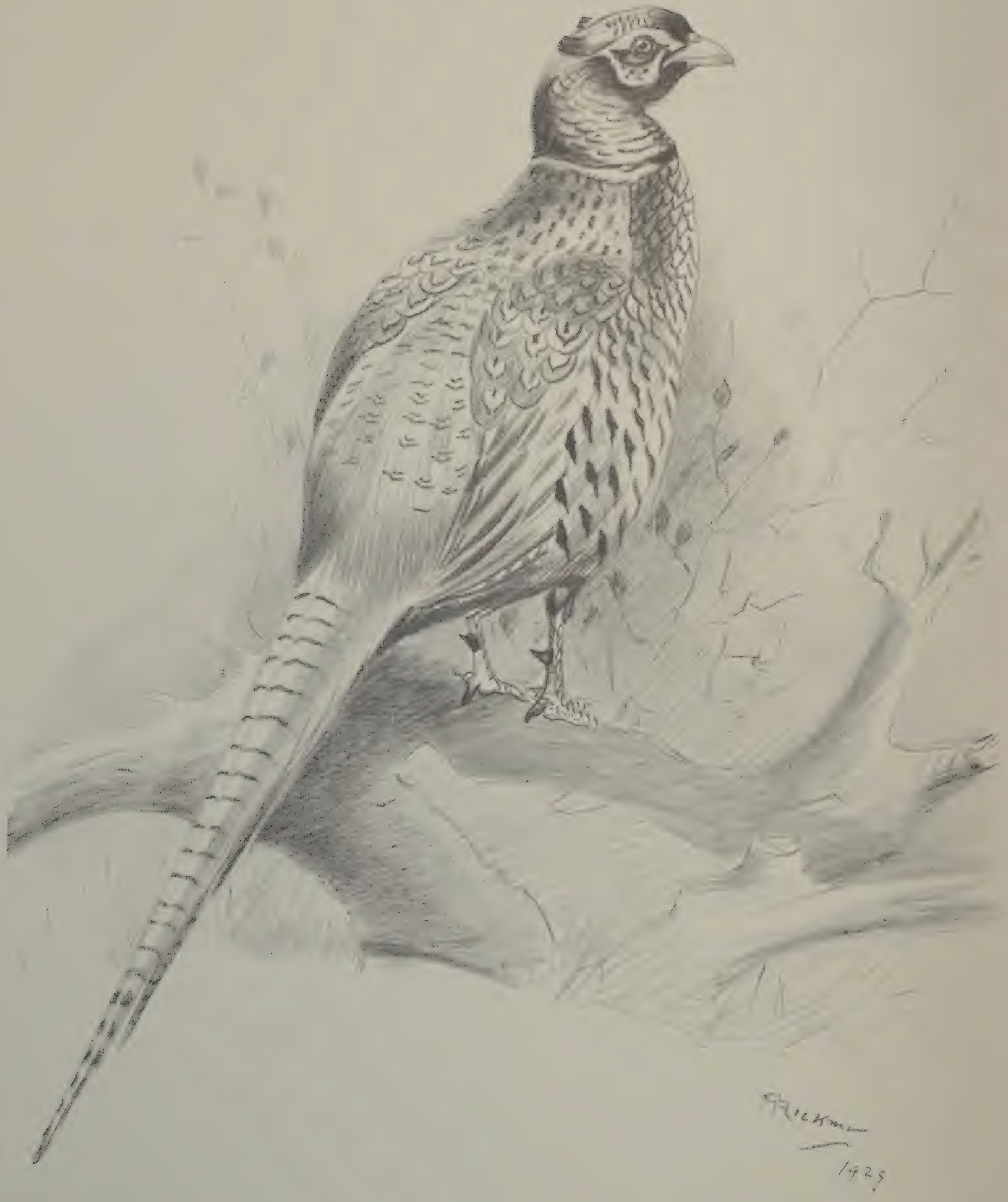


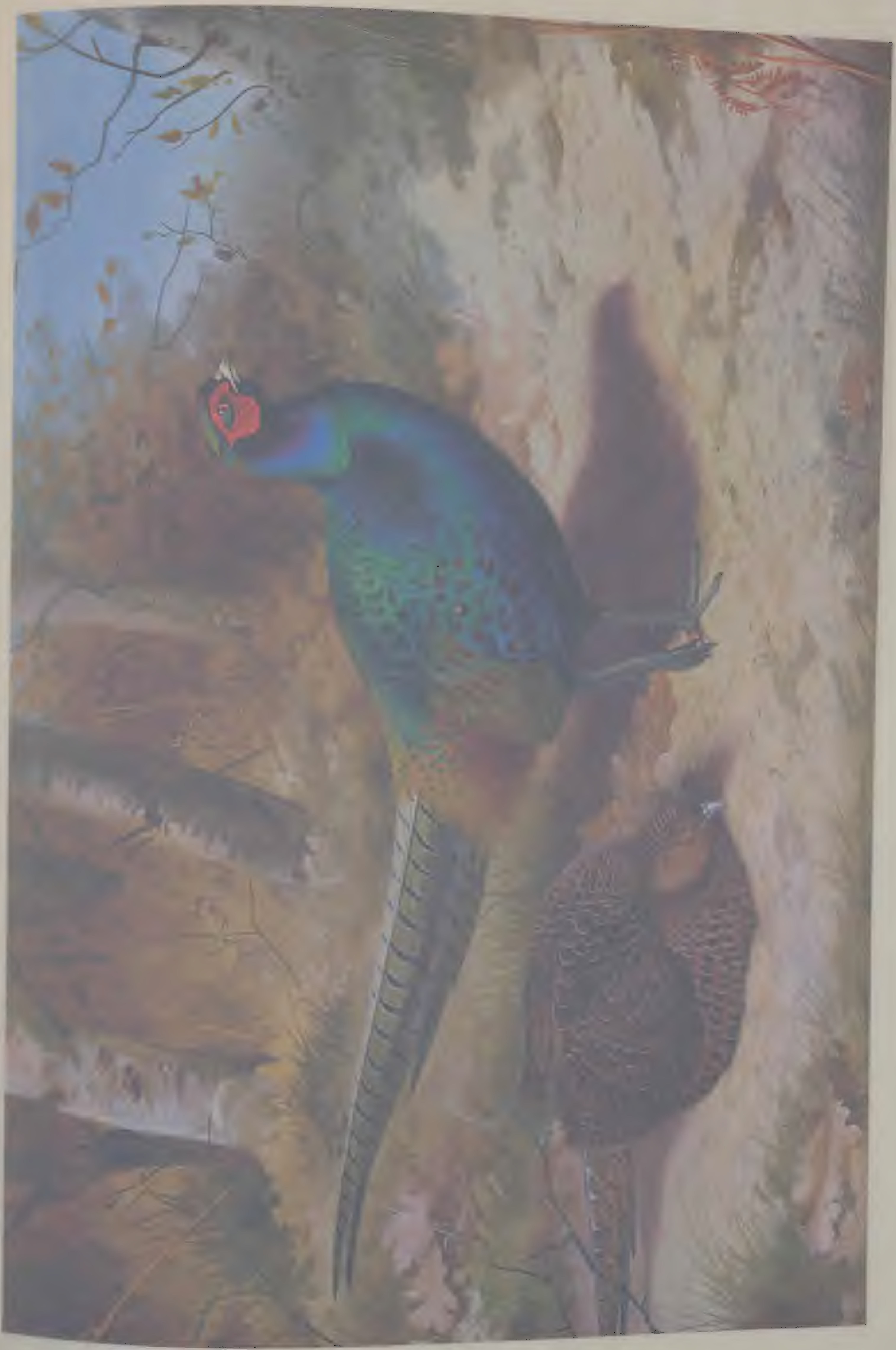
PLATE XXV

MELANISTIC MUTANT PHEASANTS

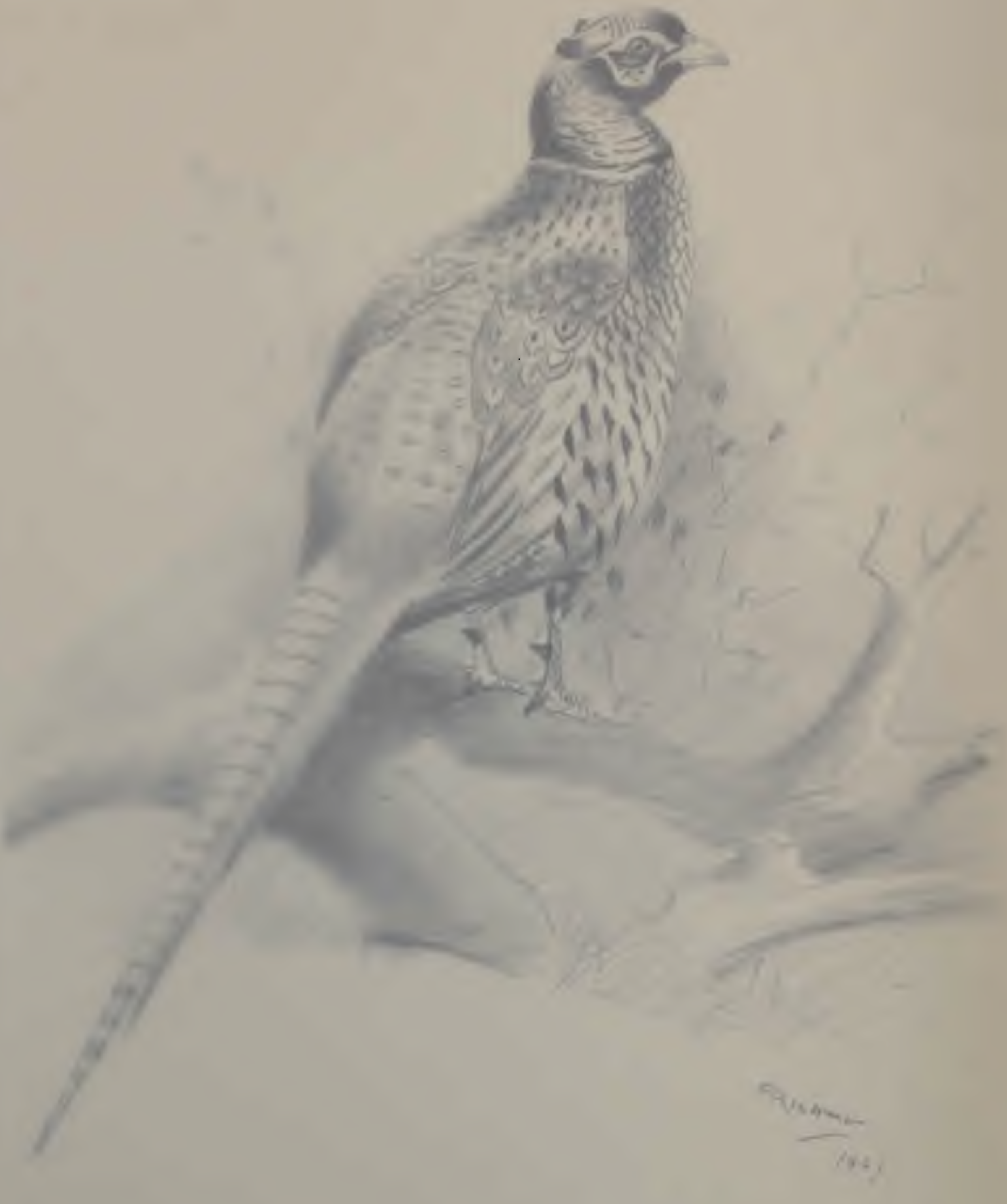
Phasianus colchicus mut. *tenebrosus*

Melanistic Mutant Pheasants 1951
Phasianus colchicus mut. *tenebrosus*





Melanistic Mutant Pheasants 1951
Phasianus colchicus mut. *tenebrosus*



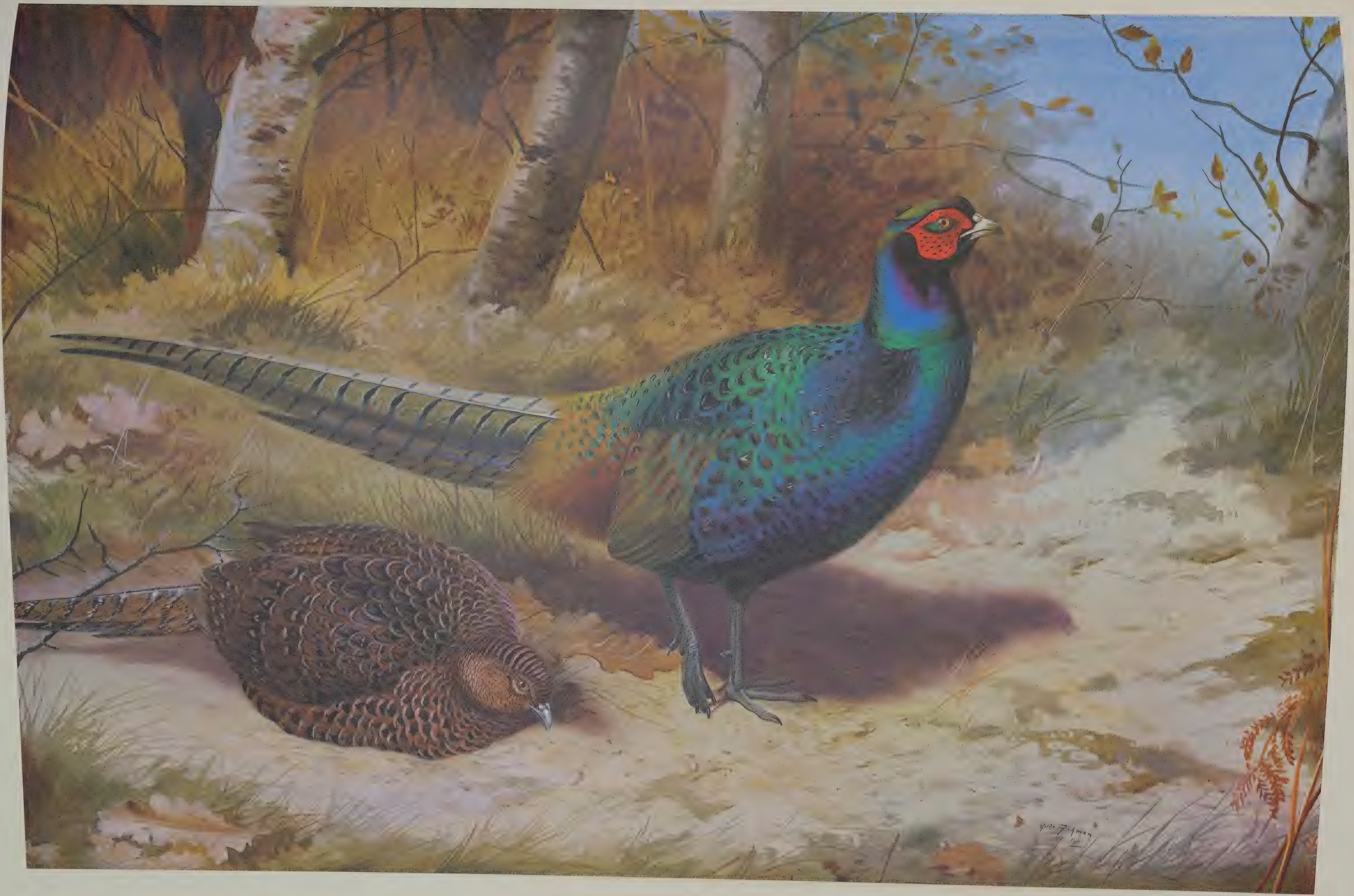


PLATE XXVI

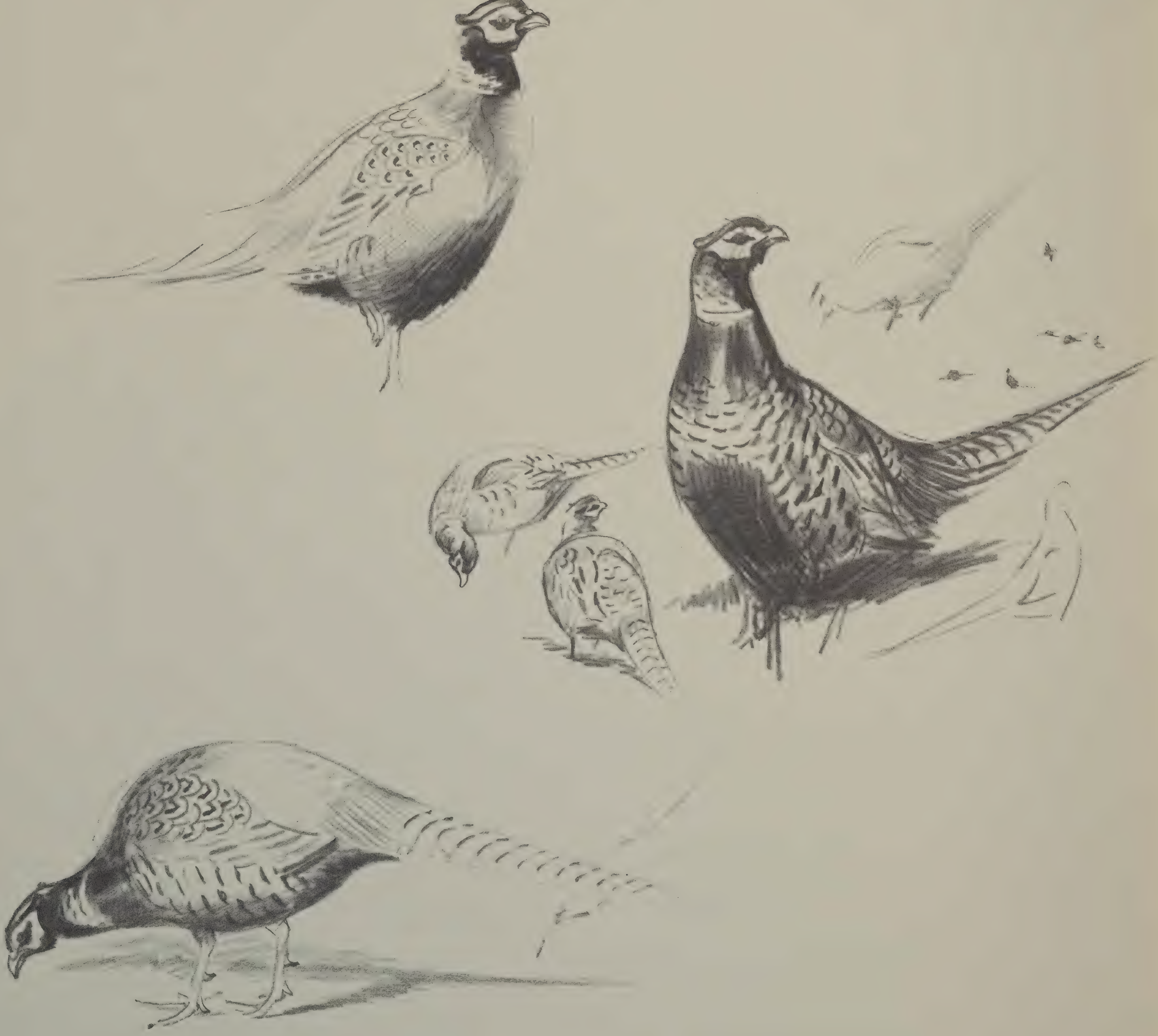
SPRING-ANTONY HOUSE

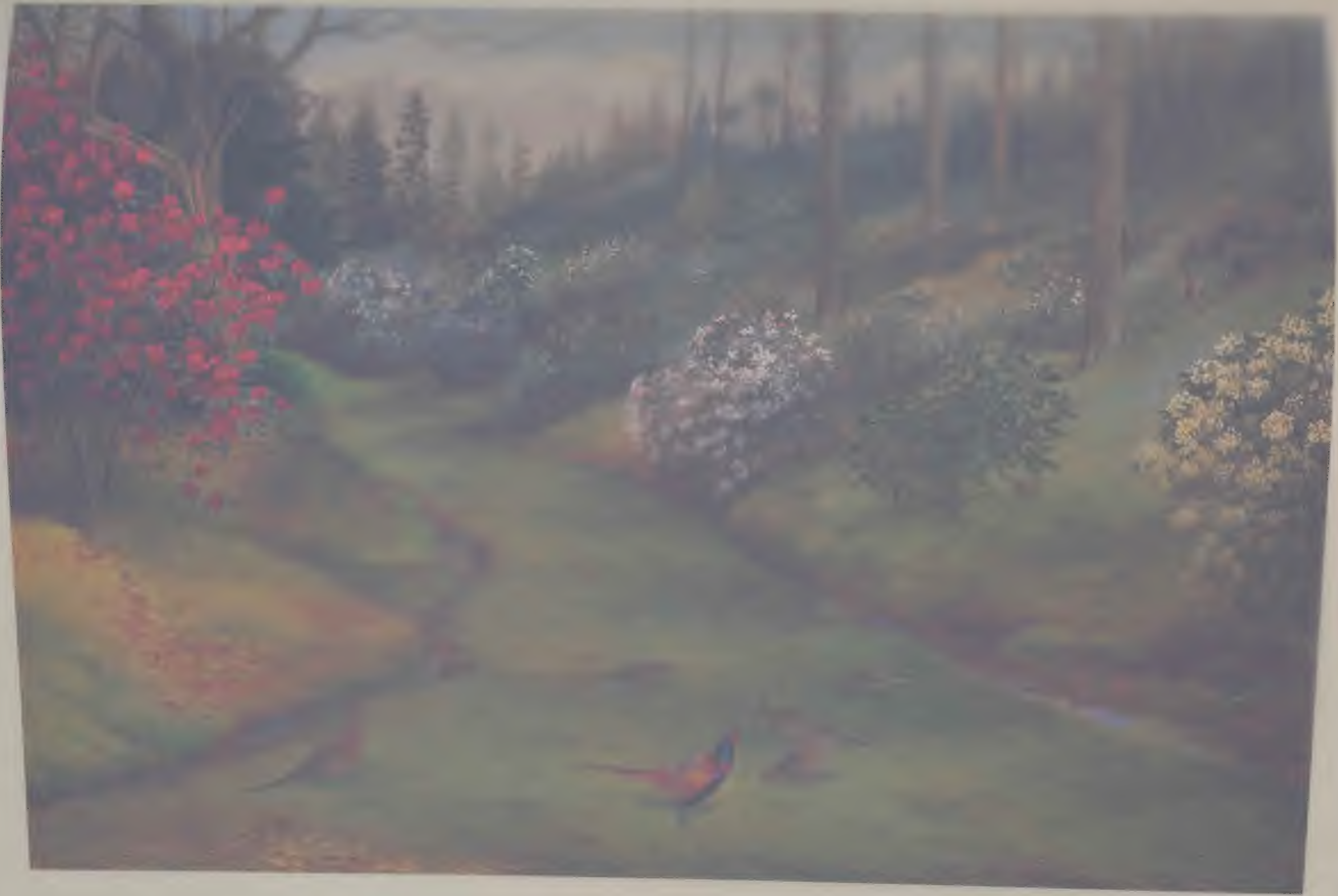
PHEASANTS

Phasianus colchicus

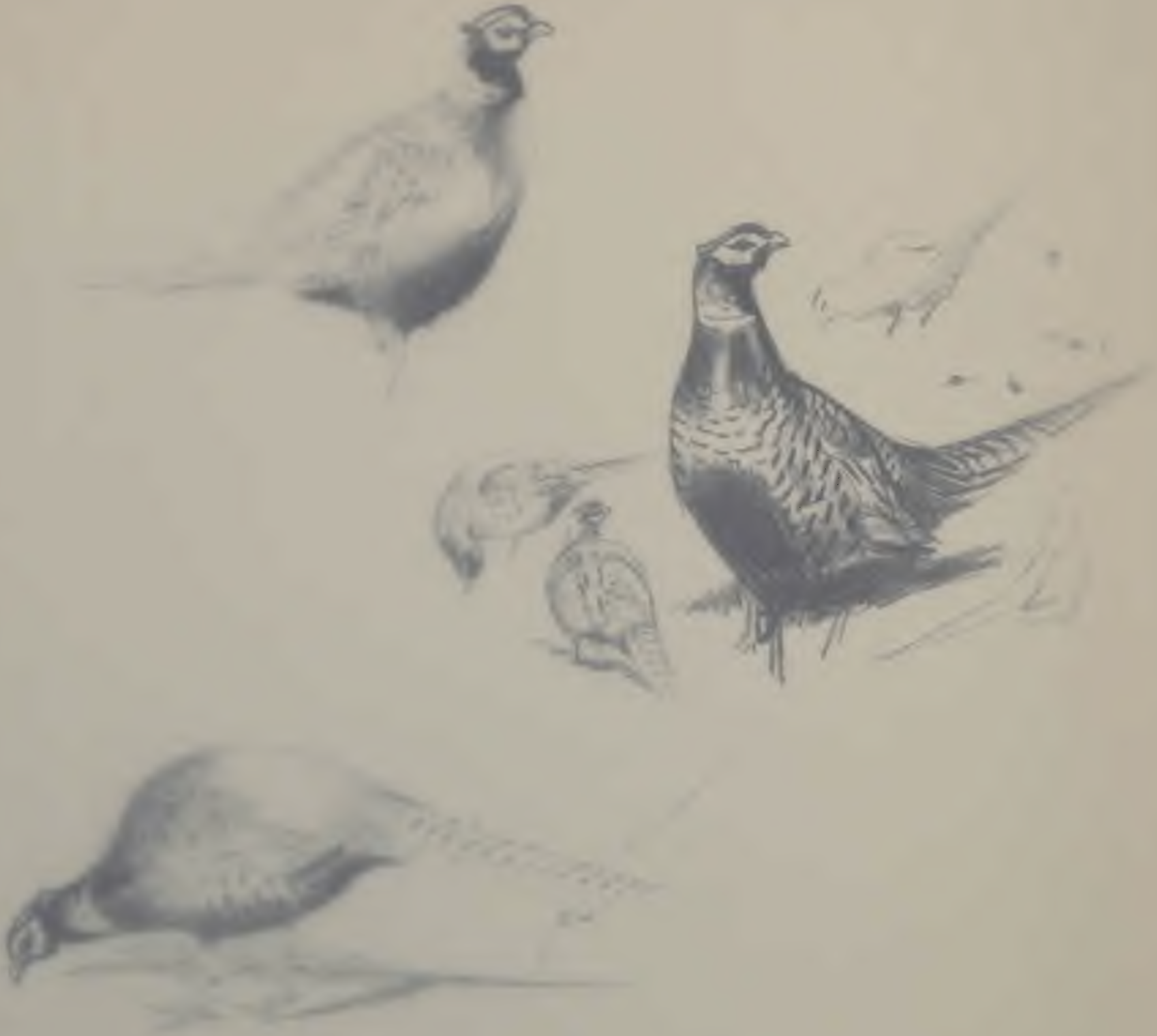
Spring – Antony House (Pheasants) 1968

Phasianus colchicus





Spring – Antony House (Pheasants) 1968
Phasianus colchicus



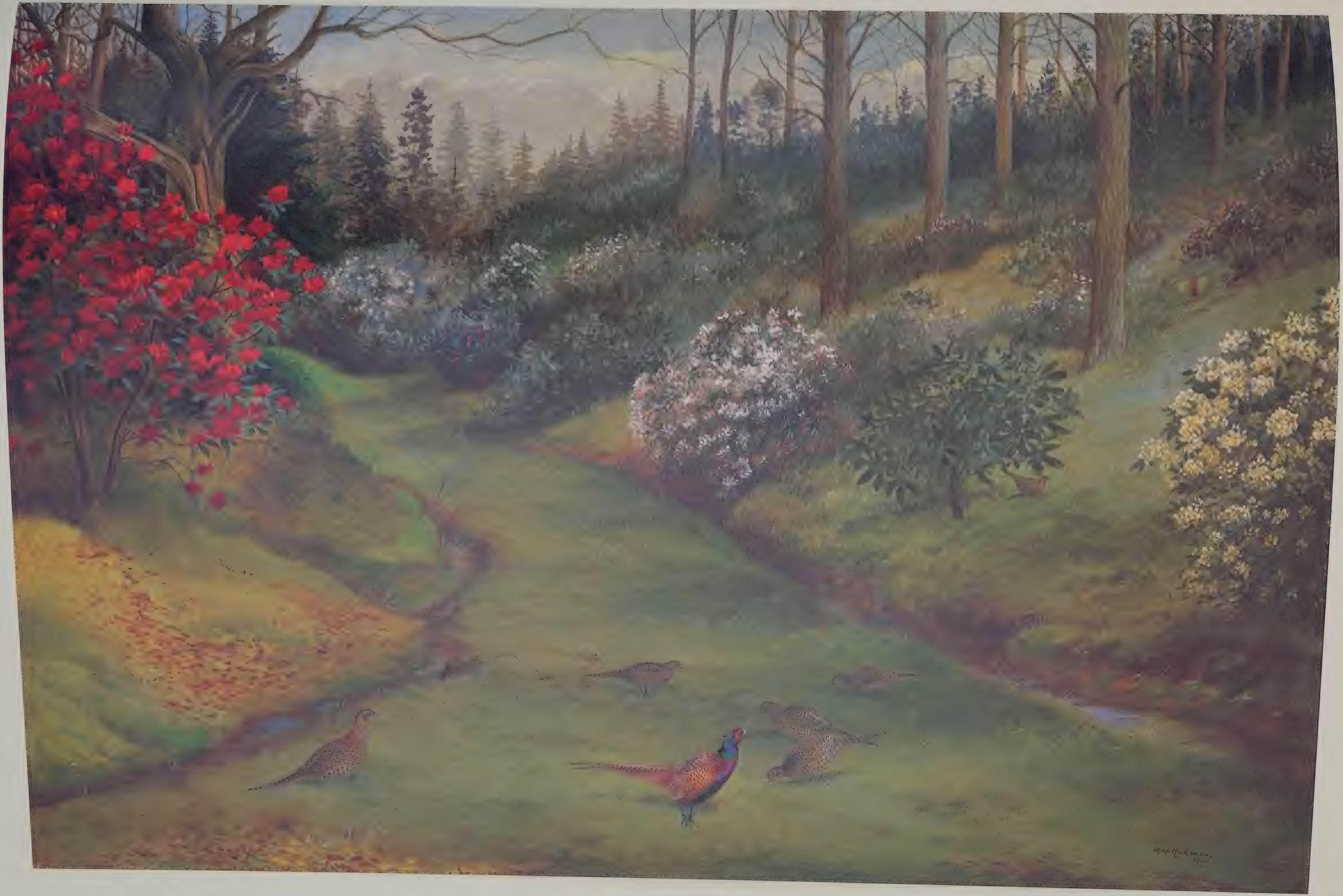


PLATE XXVII

THE WELCOME THAW

JACK SNIPE

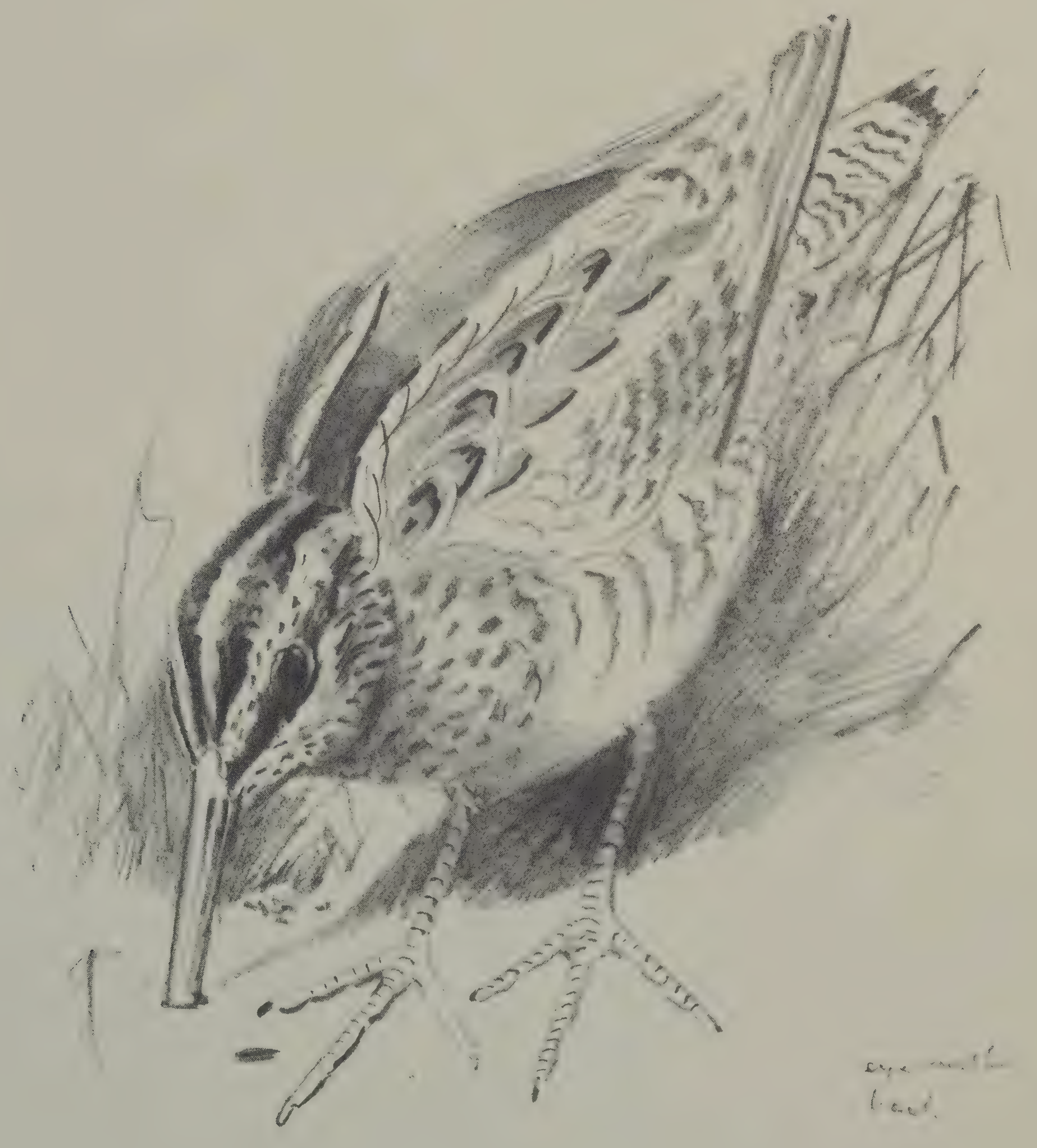
Lymnocryptes minimus

The welcome thaw (Jack Snipe) 1976

Lymnocryptes minimus

THESE attractive Snipe winter with us, and go north to Lapland and those parts of Scandinavia north of the Arctic Circle to breed. They are more solitary on the whole than Common Snipe, often being flushed singly; but at times, when the weather is hard, several may be found where there is open water. They are much more colourful than the common snipe. The yellow edges to the scapulars are of deeper hue, and the feathers have a greenish gleam; on the inner edges of these feathers the yellow being outermost. In proportion their bills are shorter and they have a more dumpy appearance.

They do not fly far as a rule, and drop down in any convenient cover. Whalley and R. Chislett state that the spring "song" (if it can be called that) is like a horse galloping on a hard road; I have not yet heard of suggestions as to how the noise is produced.

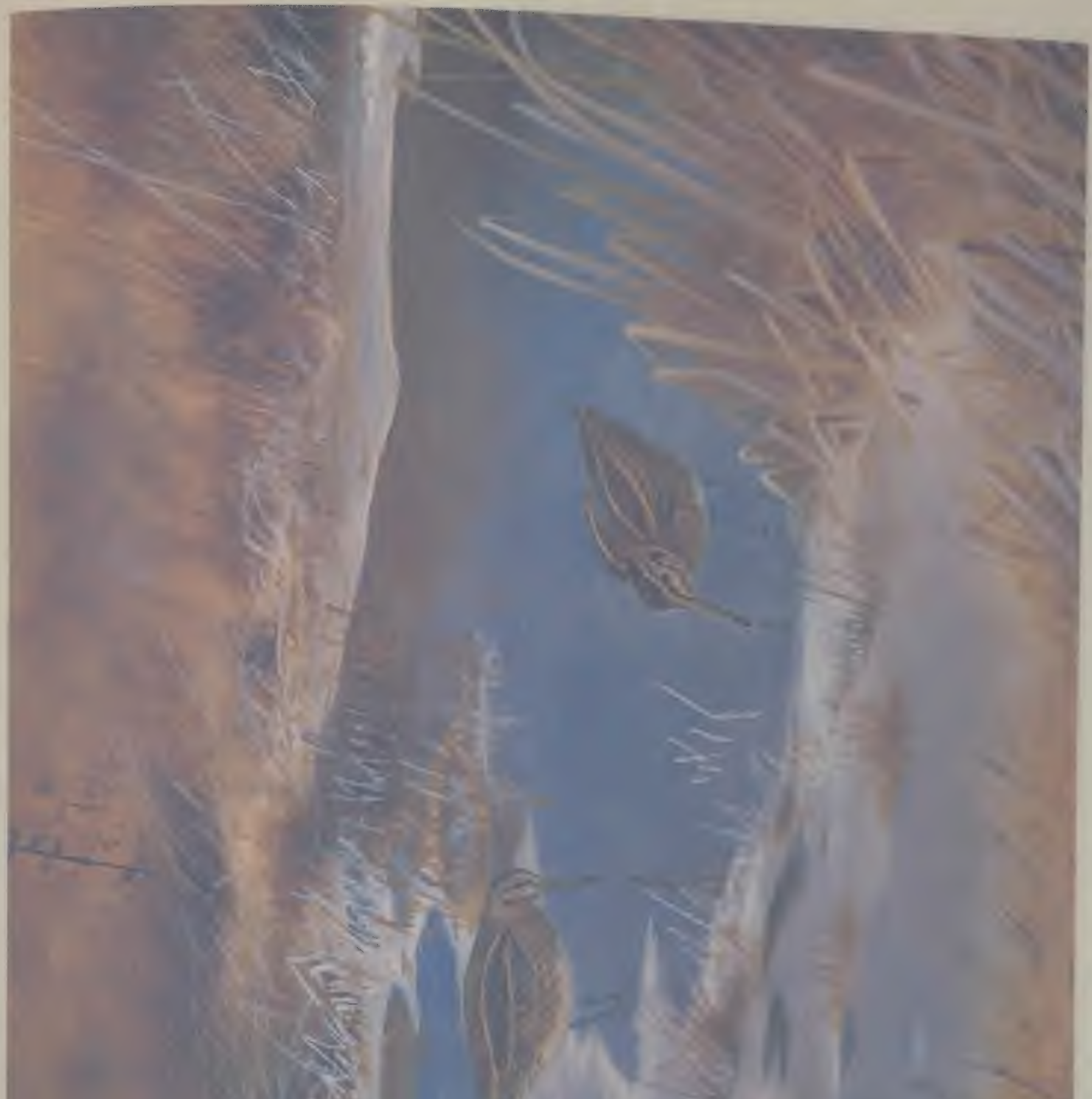


eye much bad.

Philip Rickman

[illegible]

eye sight been bad for this book



The welcome thaw (Jack Snipe) 1976

Lymnocryptes minimus

THESE miniature Snipe winter with us, and go north to Lapland and those parts of Scandinavia north of the Arctic Circle to breed. They are more solitary on the whole than Common Snipe, often being flushed singly; but at times, when the weather is frosty, several may be found where there is open water. They are much more colourful than the common snipe. The yellow edges to the scapulars are of deeper hue, and the feathers have a greenish gloss; on the inner edges of these feathers the yellow [illegible]. In proportion their bills are shorter and they have a more dumpy appearance.

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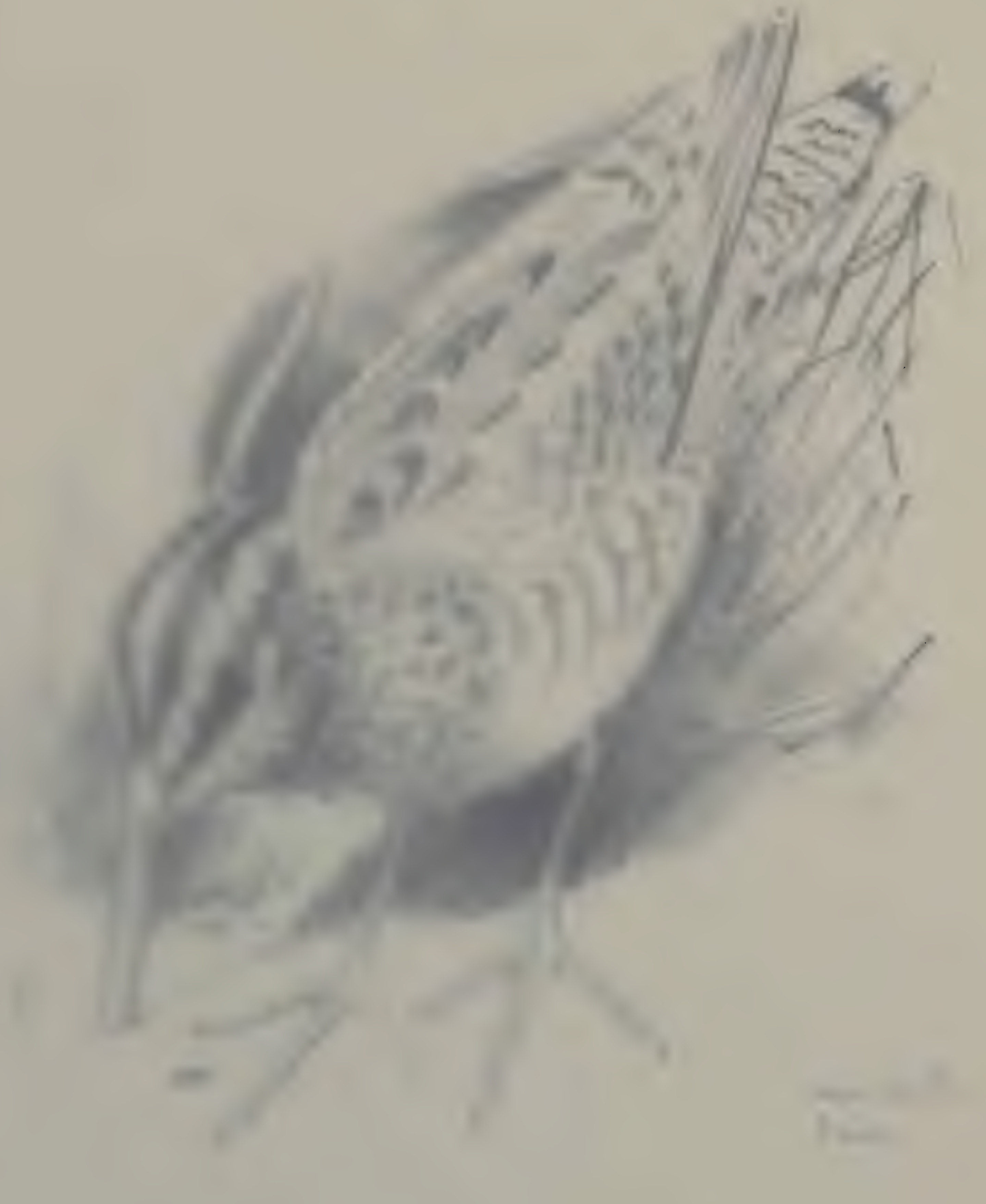


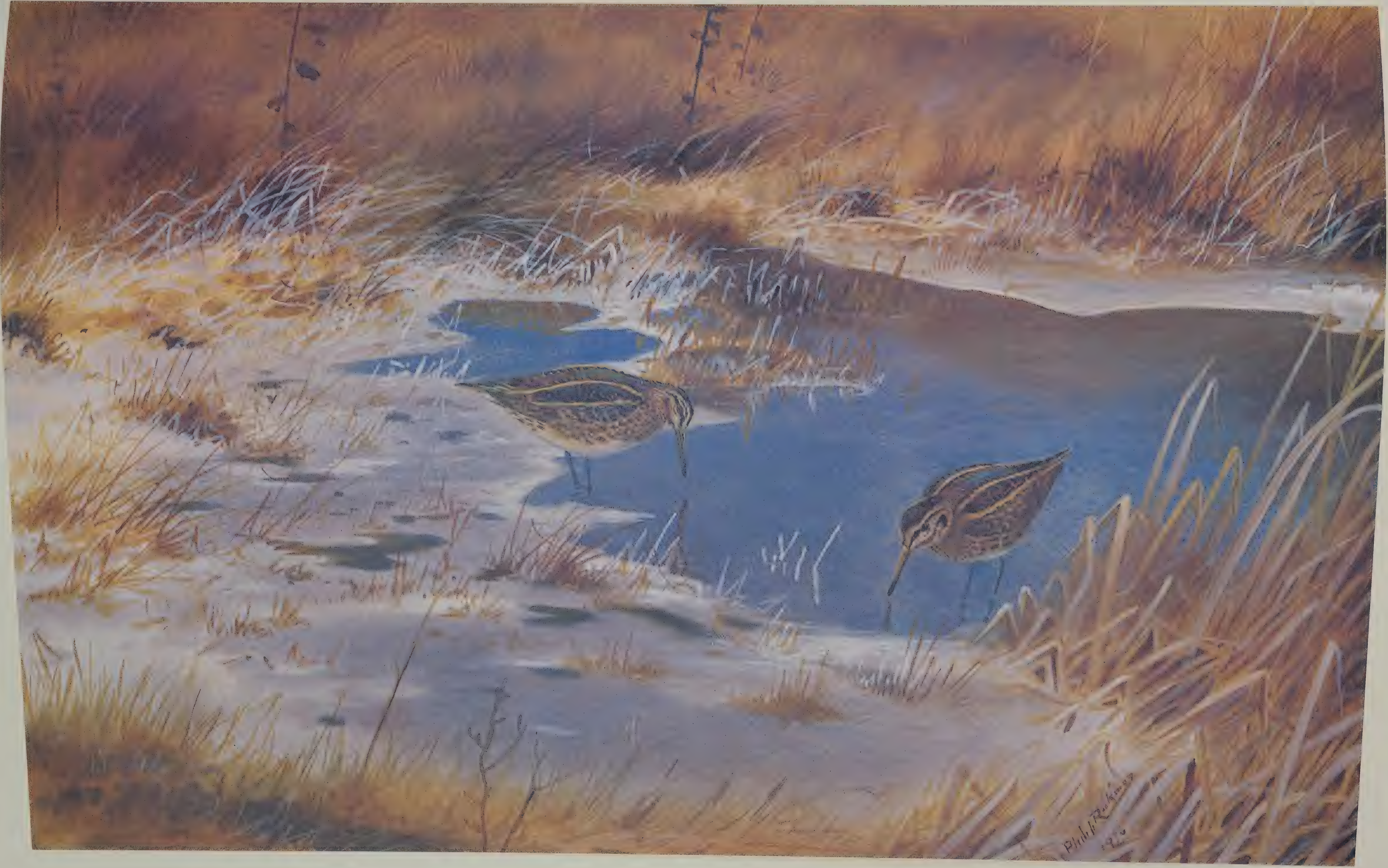

Philip Rickman

PLATE XXVIII

AN OPEN SPRING
WOODCOCK

Scolopax rusticola

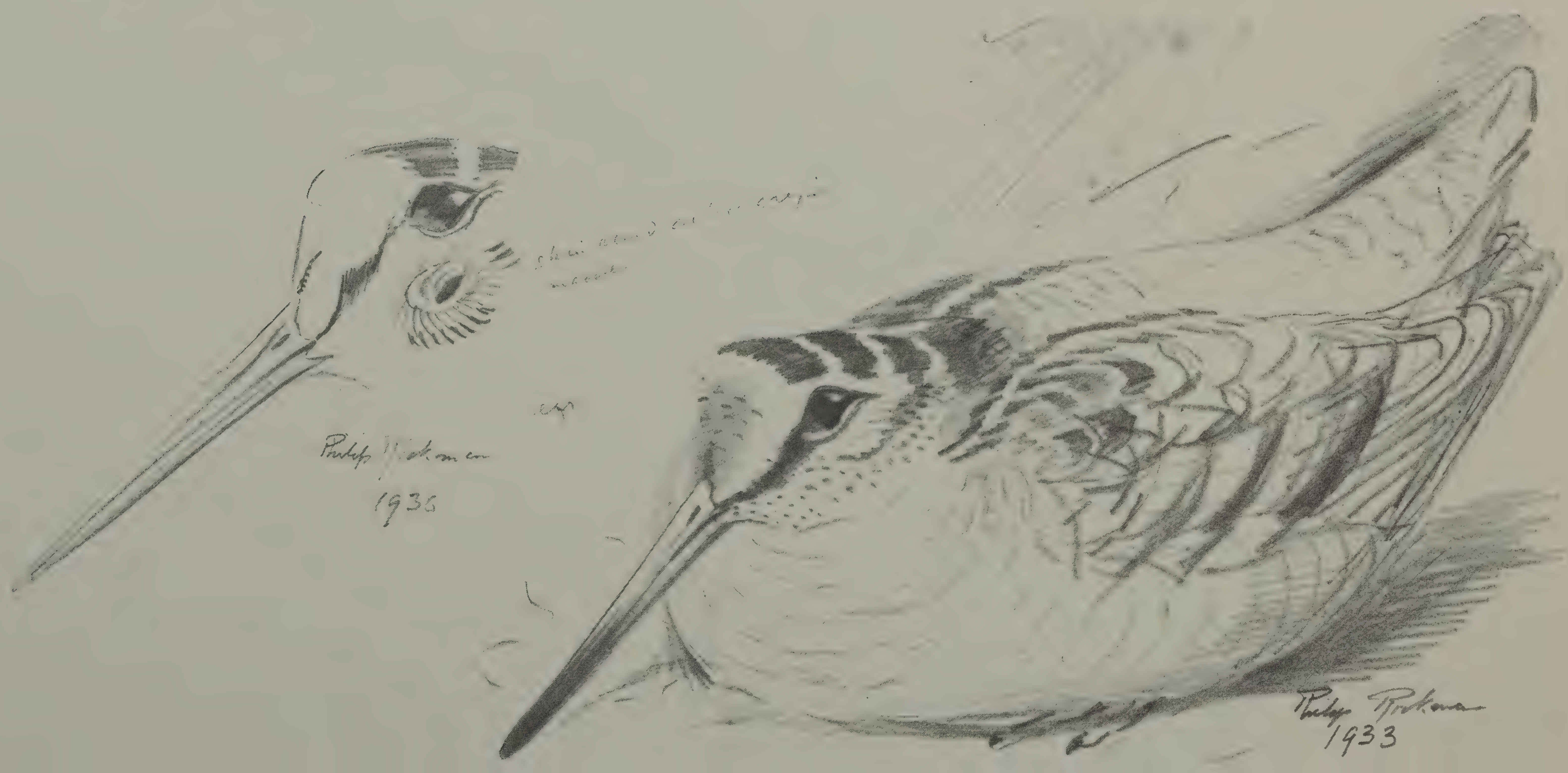
An open Spring (Woodcock) 1978
Scolopax rusticola

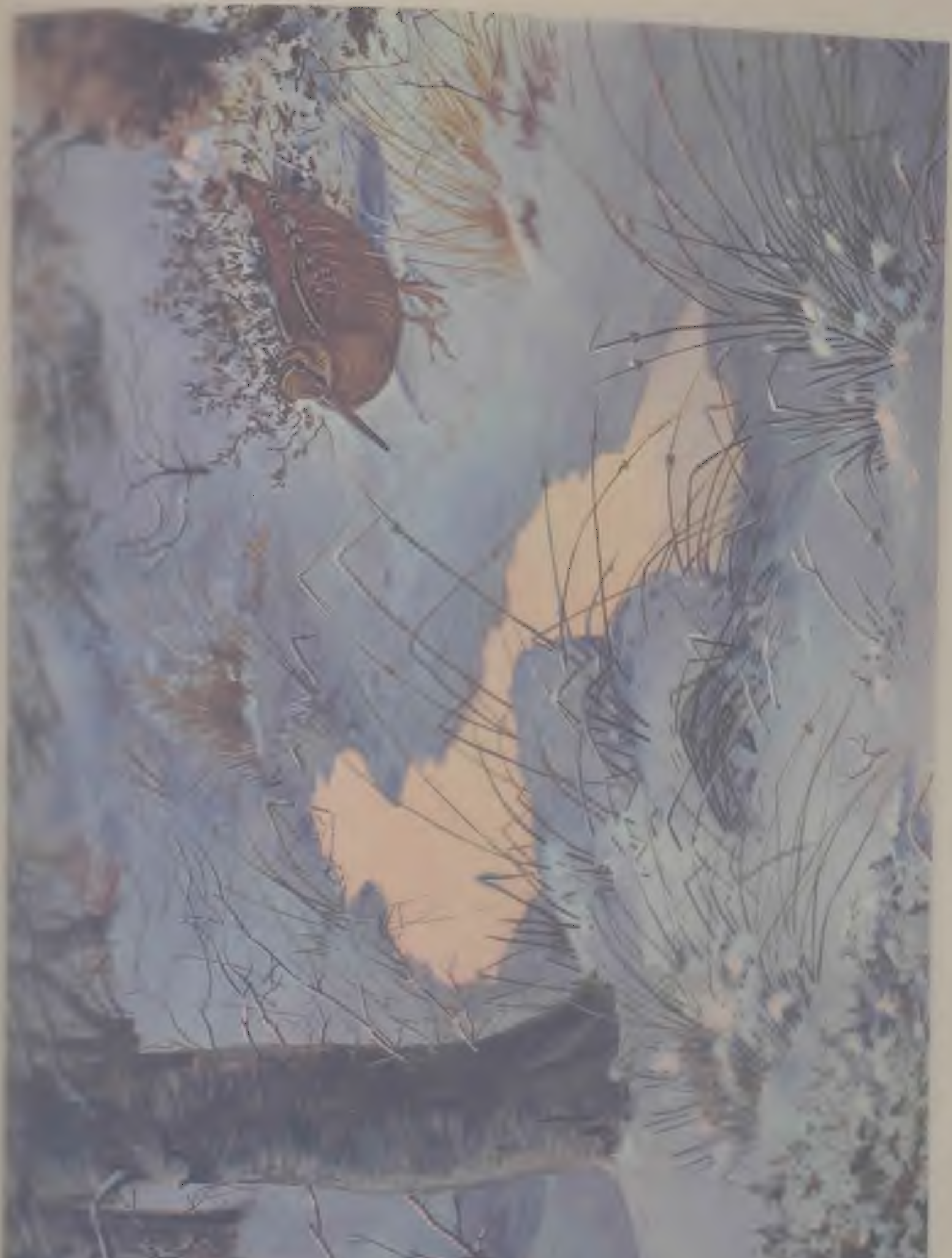
WOODCOCK are resident and migratory. Weather is a great factor, driving Woodcock to places other than those where they can usually be found. They must have soft ground to feed, so at times it is here today and gone tomorrow. The late Lord William Percy told me that he thought that Woodcock were rather sedentary, provided that the weather remained open. Many come from overseas, ringing is the only certain proof; in fact many young Woodcock were ringed at Alnwick and a large number of these were recovered within 20 miles of their nesting places.

Disputes often arise as to whether Woodcock carry their young. This has been seen by various people. On the other hand very good observers who have had ample opportunity of watching Woodcock say they have never seen it. I remember Bell, the head keeper at Wetherby, stoutly maintaining that they did not carry their young. He pointed to a wood surrounded by a 4 ft stone dyke where he had found dead young, when the other side had plenty of well watered and consequently soft places where the young could have fed; and he remarked that the parents had to fly over the dyke to nest and hatch. It must be remembered that Woodcock have very long undertail coverts which can give the impression that they are carrying young; I have seen a Woodcock get up, and I thought she might be carrying young; but a labrador found four young, which means that she cannot have been (since they never have more than four).

I have had many opportunities at Burnside in Angus of studying nesting Woodcock and being rather uneasy when a bird flew from the nest, the eggs were chipping and it began to snow; however, on visiting the place next day they had hatched and were away. Woodcock have hair-like feathers in front of the eyes and this is more noticeable than in the Snipe. Their ears are below and in front of their eyes. In the spring the males fly round their breeding territories with a slow wavering flight known as "roding" and from time to time emit a creaking noise which is very audible on a still evening. They have a puffed appearance. When they drop to the ground it is almost as fast as a thrown stone. This happens without any sort of warning.

There are two definite forms – a grey and a brown. Some birds are very dark. Again I have seen a few birds with very short bills. Sexes can only be ascertained by dissection. I have been fortunate enough to see a phase of the courtship of Woodcock which differed from accounts I have seen, a description of this is fully recorded in my book *A Bird Painter's Sketchbook* with illustrations.





An open Spring (Woodcock) 1978

Scolopax rusticola

WOODCOCK [illegible]. Weather is a great factor, driving Woodcock [illegible] where they can usually be found. They [illegible] here today and gone tomorrow. The [illegible] that Woodcock were rather sedentary, [illegible] come from overseas, ringing is the [illegible] were ringed at Alnwick and a large [illegible] of their nesting places.

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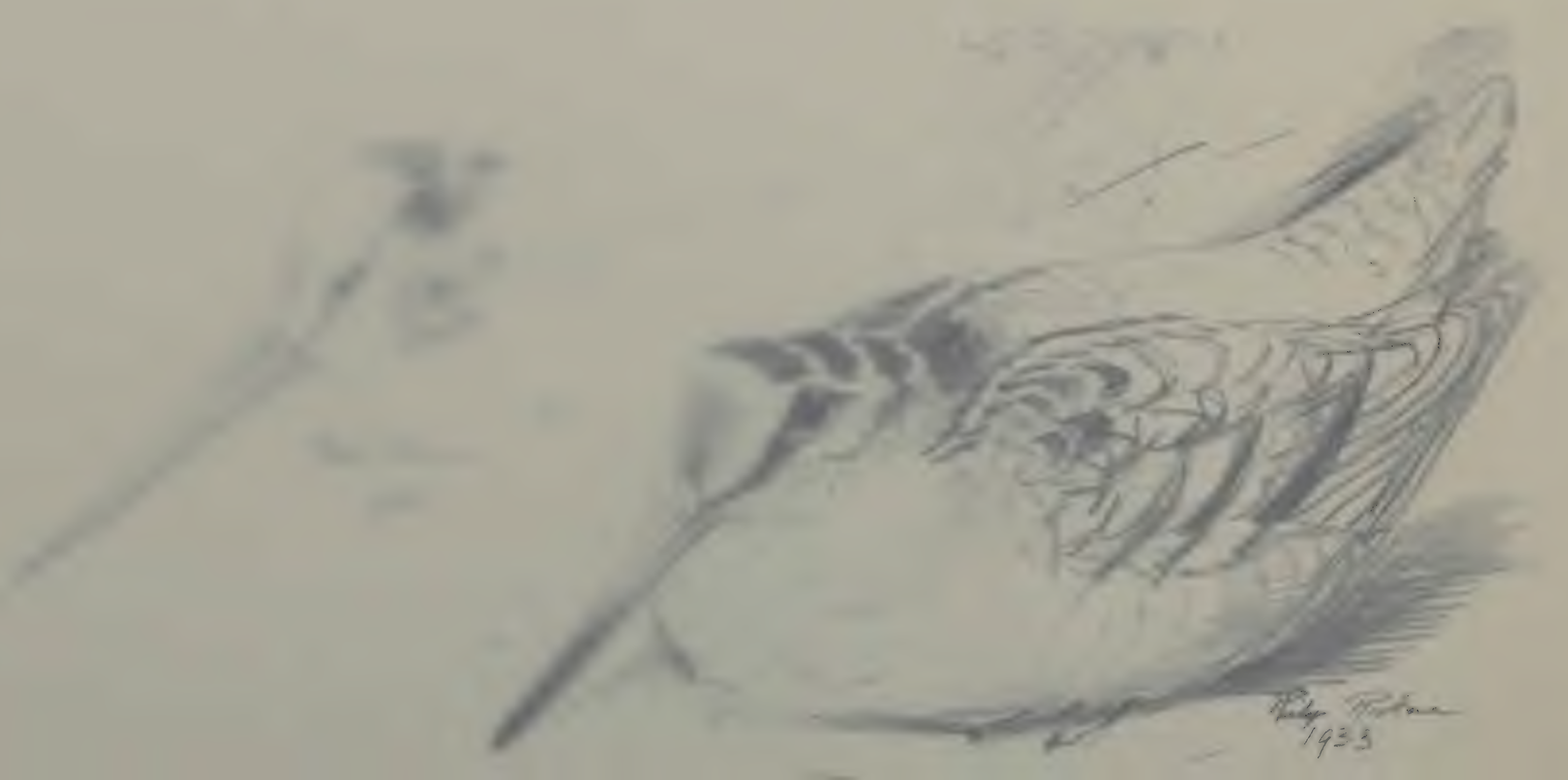
[illegible] of studying nesting Woodcock [illegible], the eggs were chipping and it [illegible] day they had hatched and were [illegible] eyes and this is more noticeable [illegible] their eyes. In the spring the [illegible] wavering flight known as [illegible] which is very audible on a [illegible] drop to the ground it is almost [illegible] sort of warning.

[illegible] Some birds are very dark. Again [illegible] only be ascertained by dissec- [illegible] courtship of Woodcock which [illegible] this is fully recorded in my book [illegible]



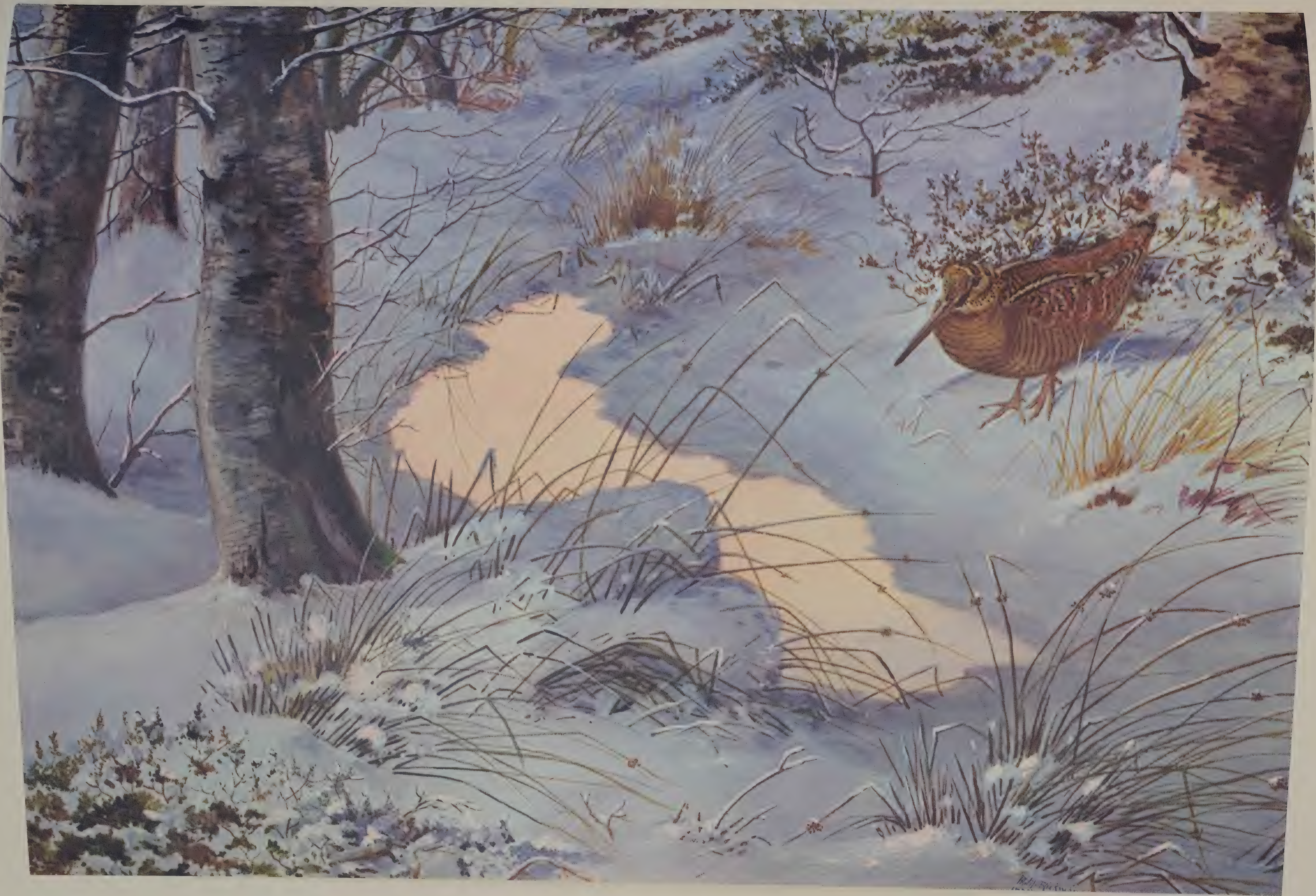


PLATE XXIX

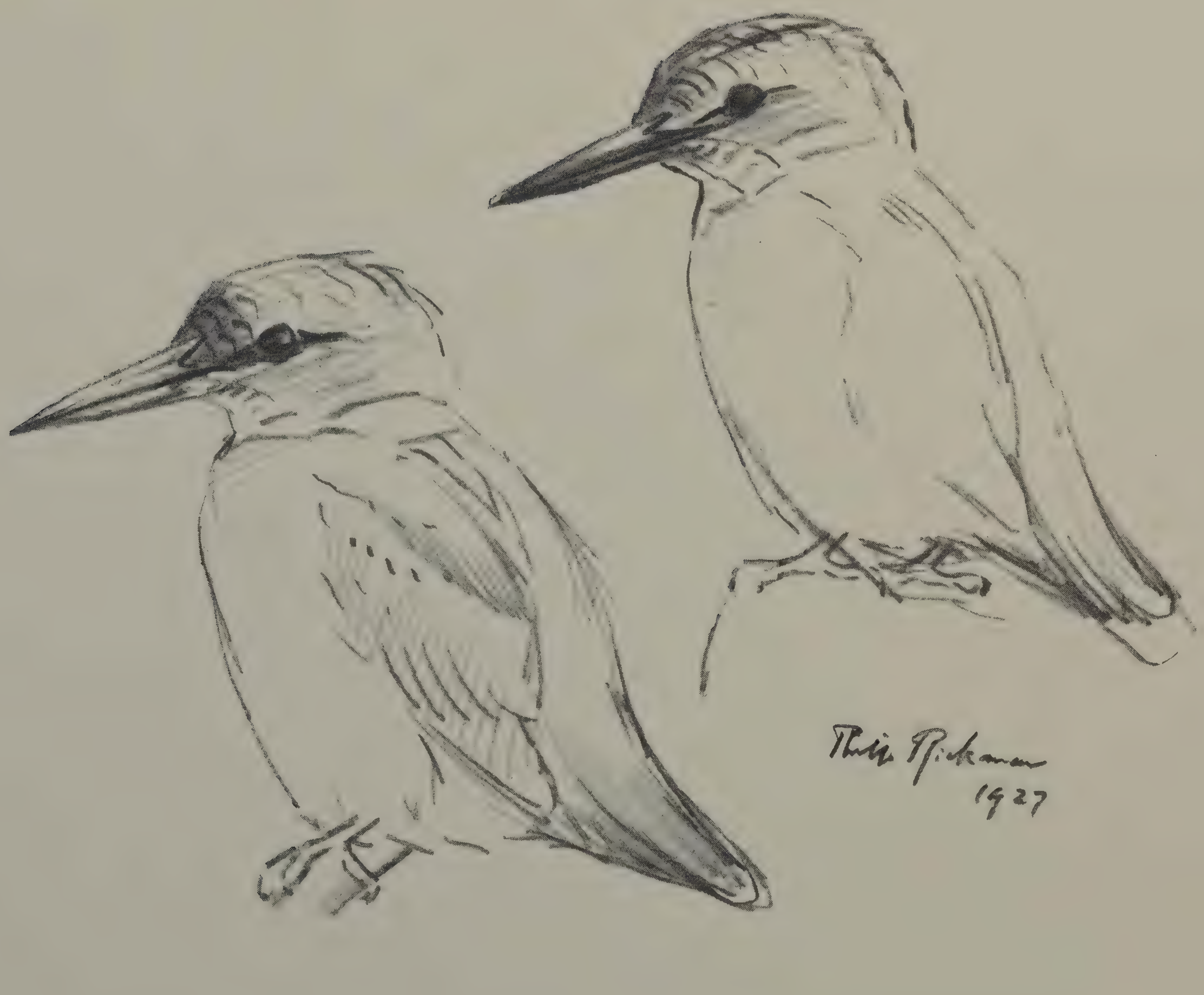
SPRING
A PAIR OF KINGFISHERS

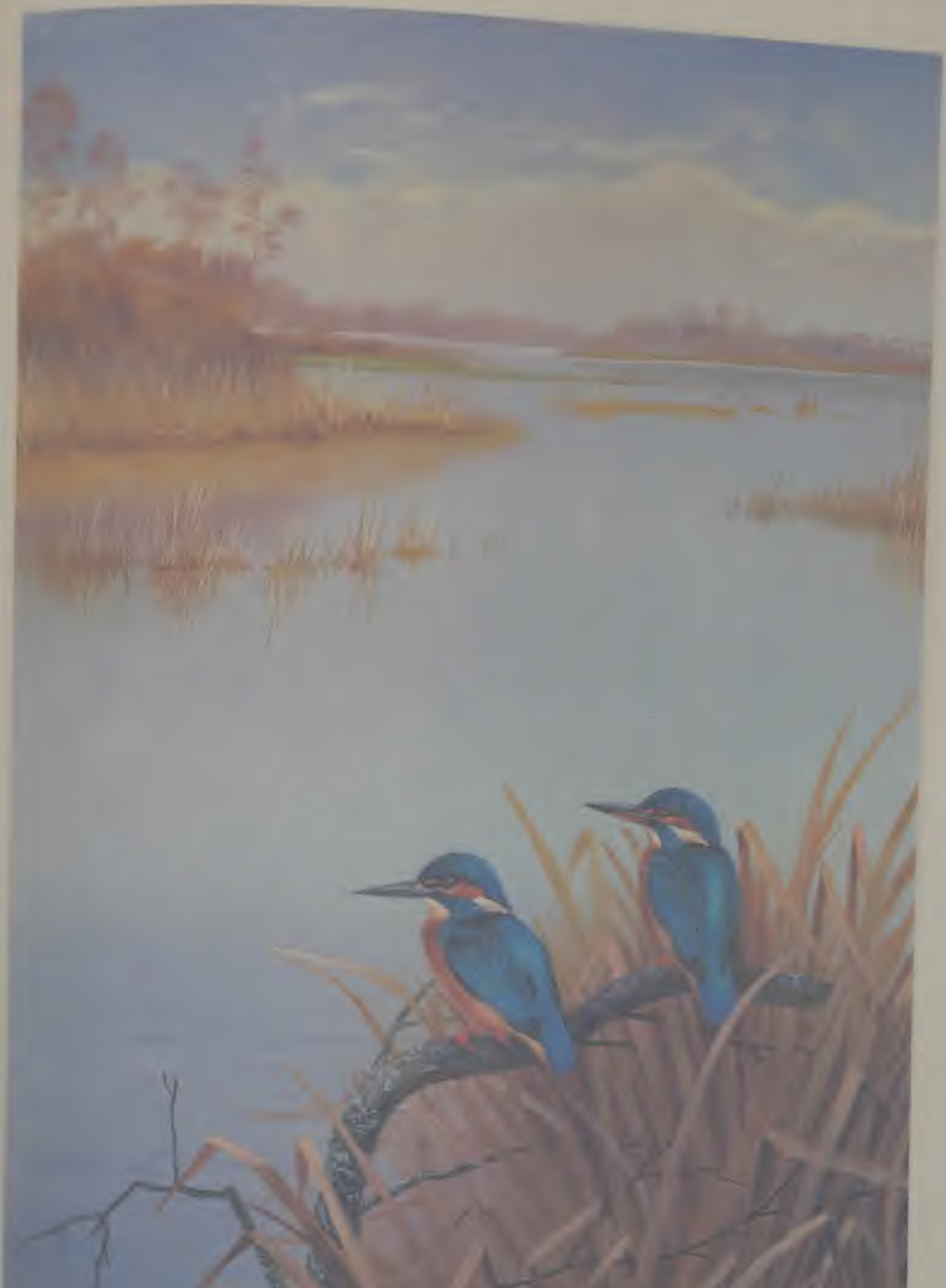
Alcedo atthis

Spring, A Pair of Kingfishers 1978
Alcedo atthis

KINGFISHERS seem to be more uncommon than years ago; they appear to prefer small streams with sandy or loamy banks for nesting, digging their burrows themselves. I have seen Kingfishers hovering over small pools amongst the rocks on the South Coast in winter time when they have been frozen out of the streams and waters where they normally fish.

The sexes are alike excepting that the females can be distinguished from the males by the reddish mark which runs from the gape of the lower mandible towards the tip. The legs and toes are scarlet and zygodactyl. Their flight is fast and follows the stream. They are sedentary, but if hard weather lasts for long they suffer considerable losses. It is then that they are driven to sea foods as noted above.





Spring, A Pair of Kingfishers 1978

Alcedo atthis

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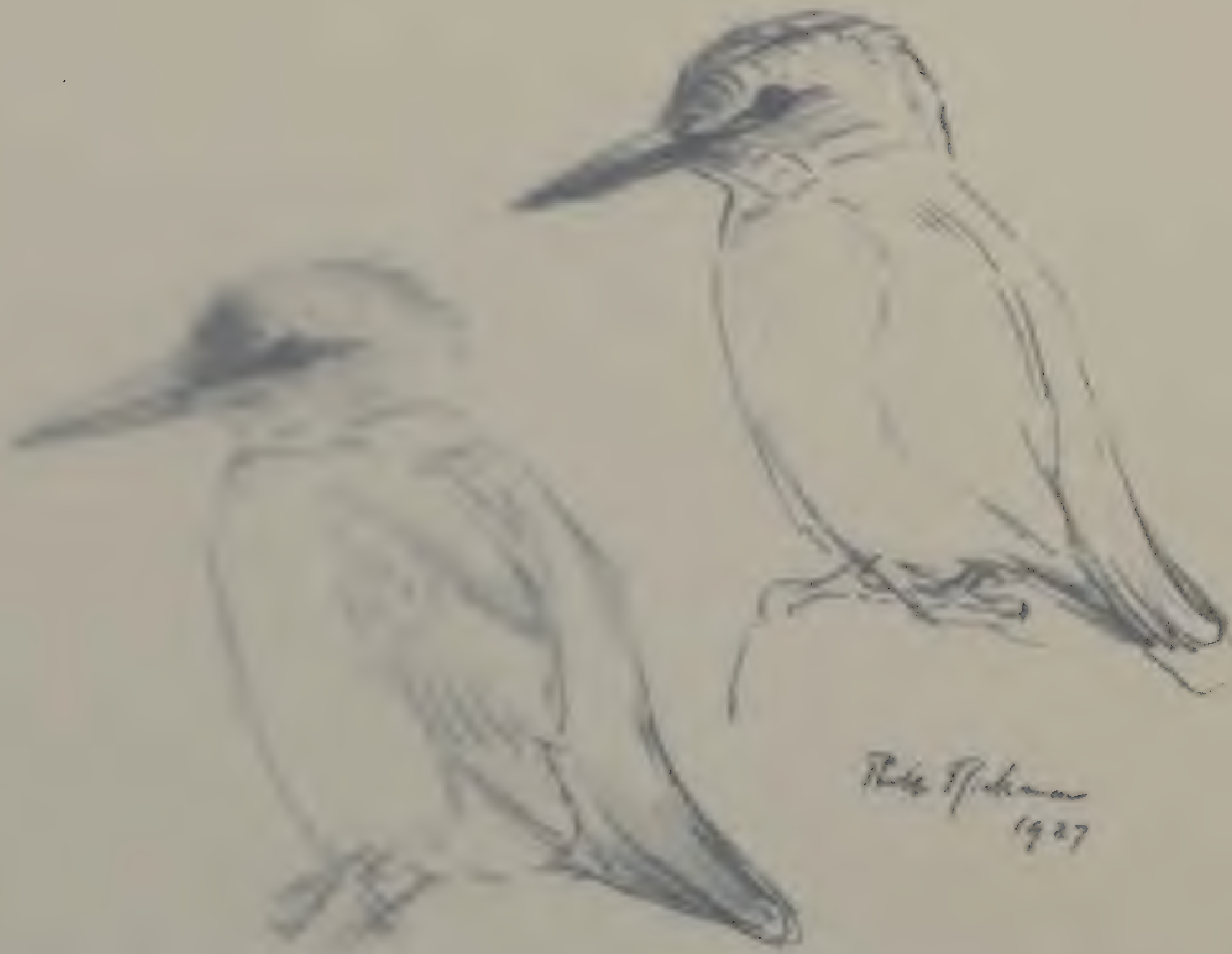


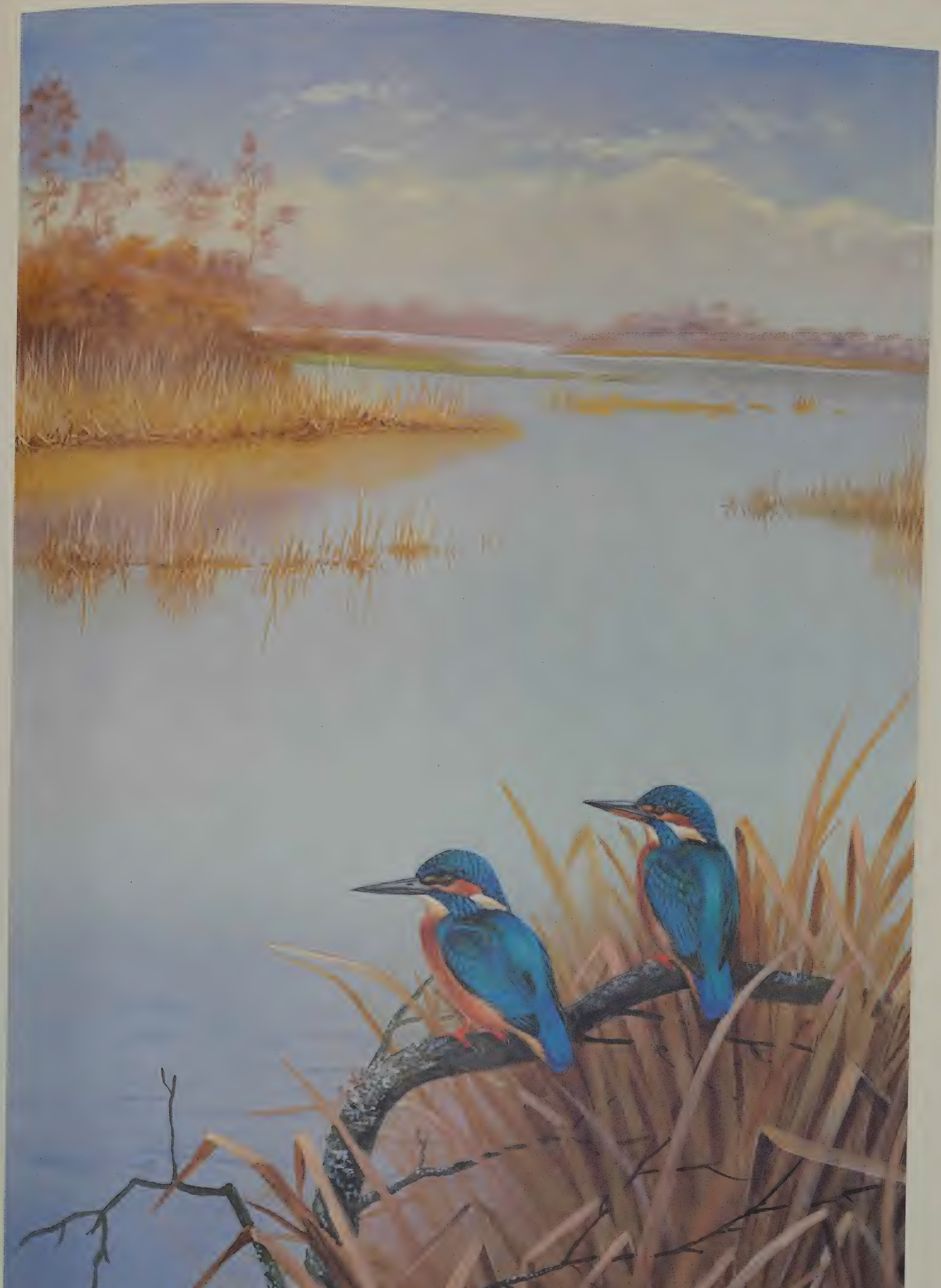


PLATE XXX

BLUE TITS AND GOLDFINCHES

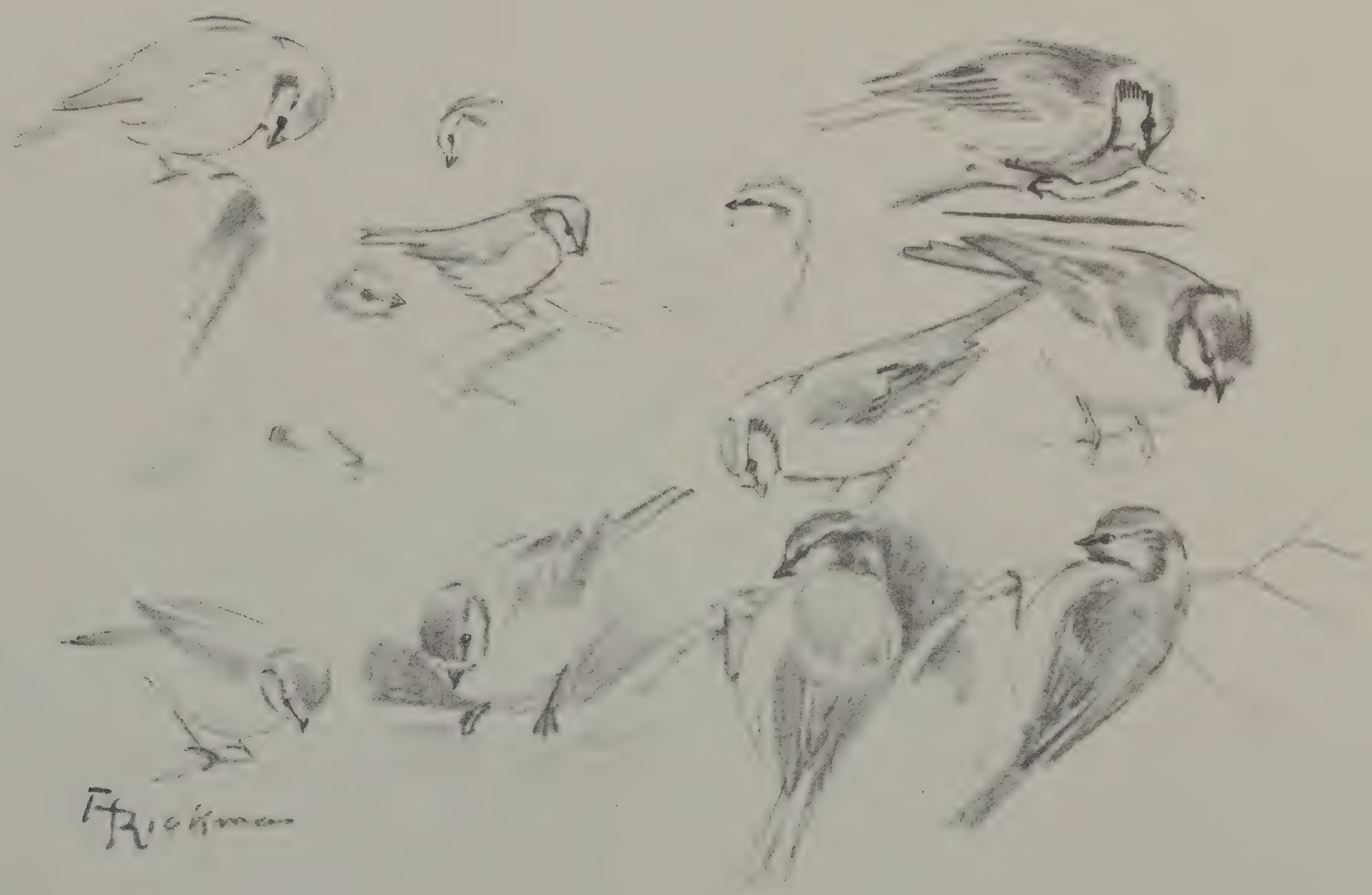
Parus caeruleus/Carduelis carduelis

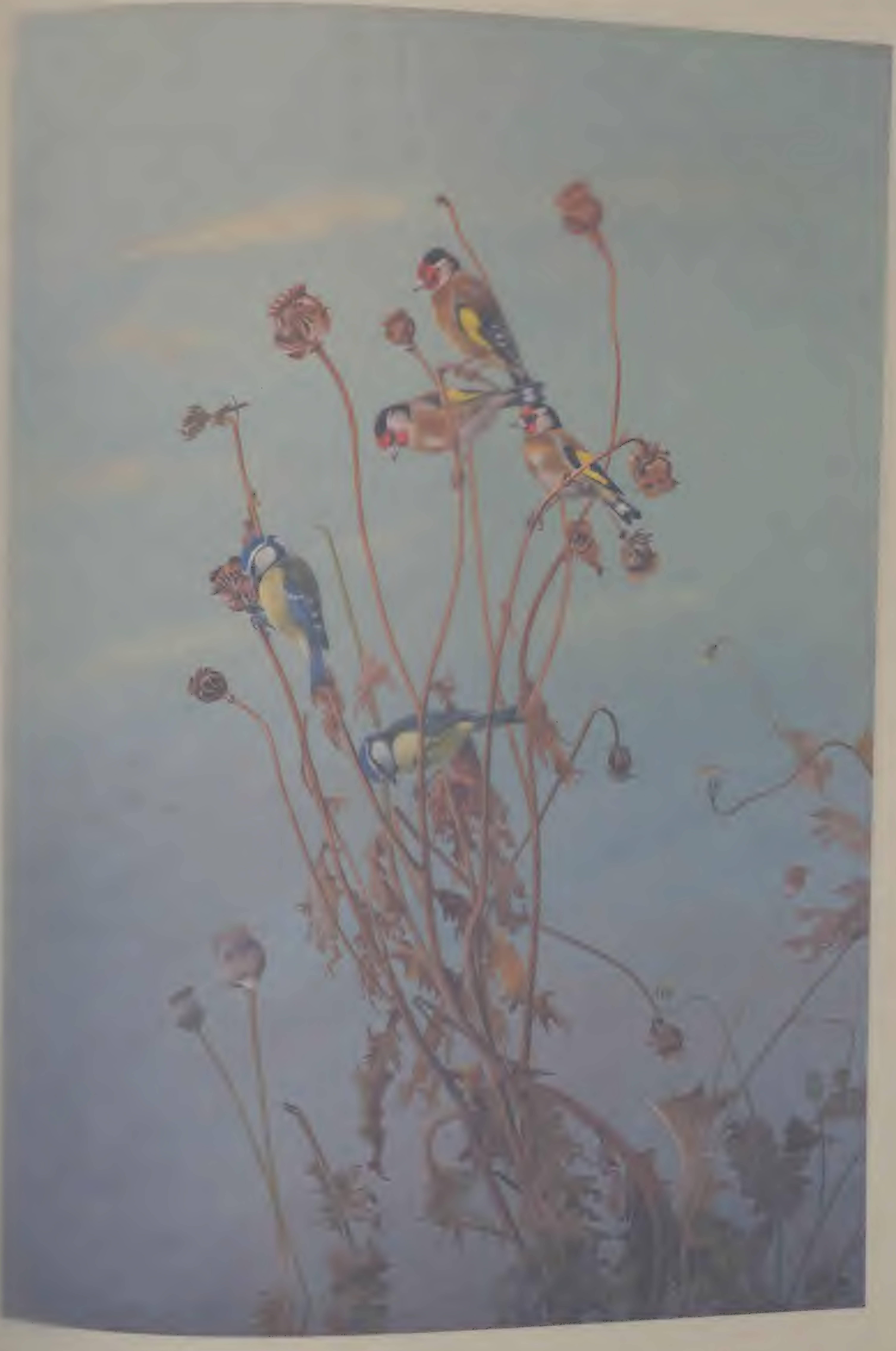
Blue Tits and Goldfinches 1967

Parus caeruleus/Carduelis carduelis

BLUE Tits are a common feature of both countryside and town, and soon get very knowing about bird tables. Nesting in holes in trees or a flower pot, nest box or in fact any suitable hole, they are attractive little birds and may become very tame. I remember seeing Blue and Coal Tits taking crumbs from the mouth of a friend years ago on Loch Lomond side.

Goldfinches are charming little birds often nesting in gardens and many suitable areas where there is ample tree and shrub growth. They feed on insects and seeds of such plants as thistles, teazles and many other seed-bearing plants. When I see a number together fluttering over thistle or teazle plants at seed time, and the continual movement of the birds as they cling to the plants (often spreading their wings to fly or maintain a precarious balance) the country name for a flock, a "charm" always strikes me as very apt.





Blue Tits and Goldfinches 1967

Parus caeruleus/Carduelis carduelis

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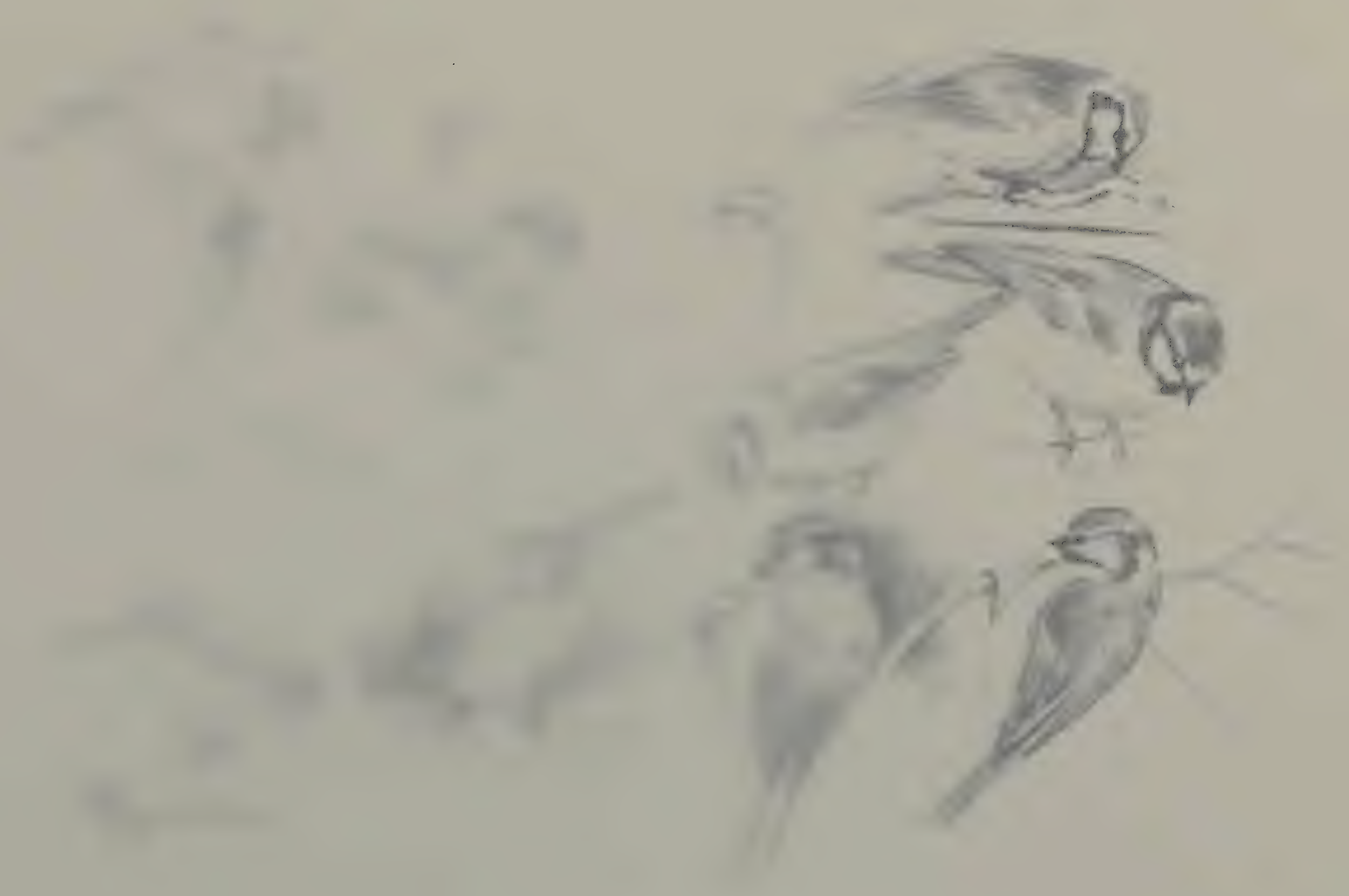


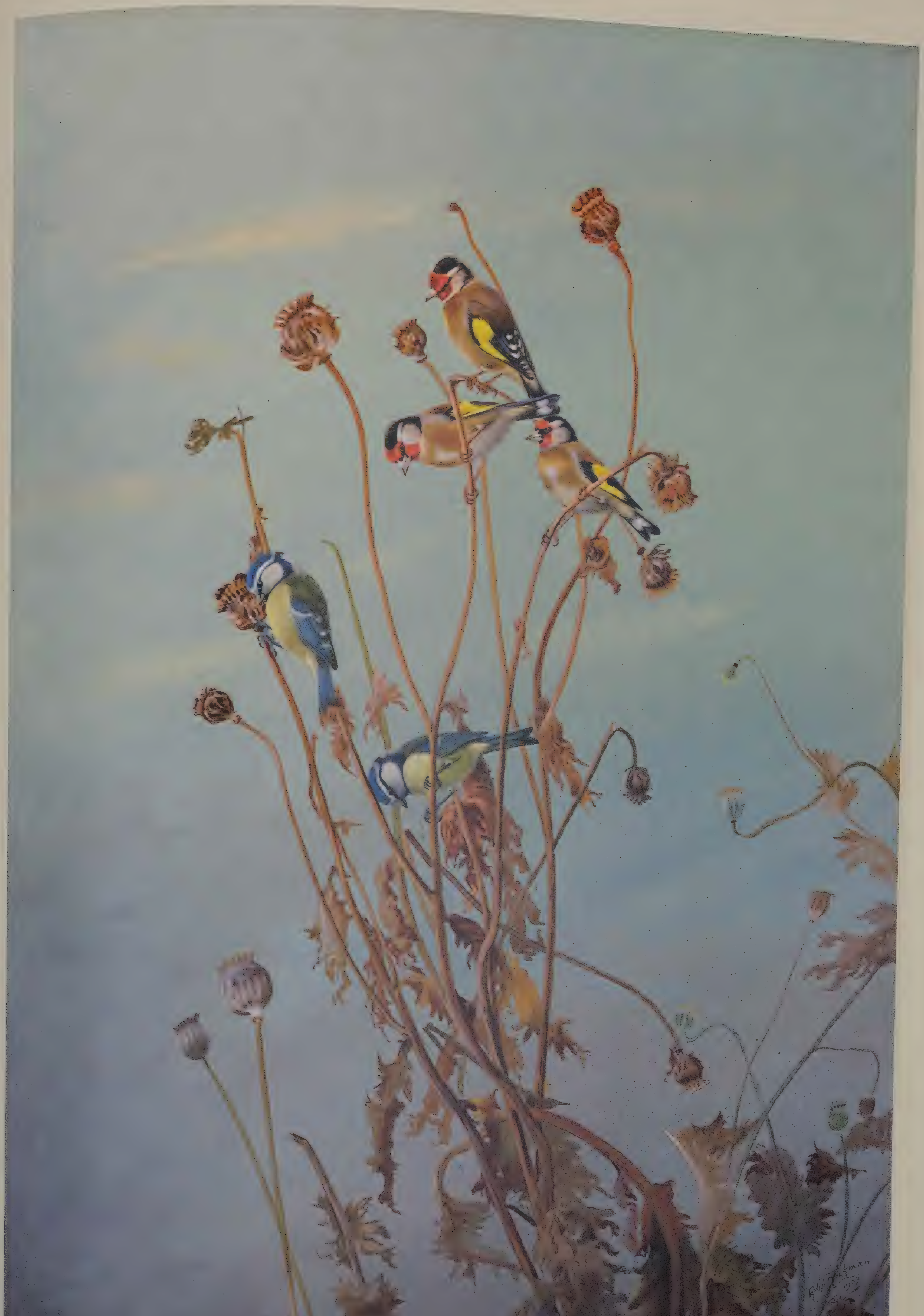


PLATE XXXI

BLACKTHORN WINTER

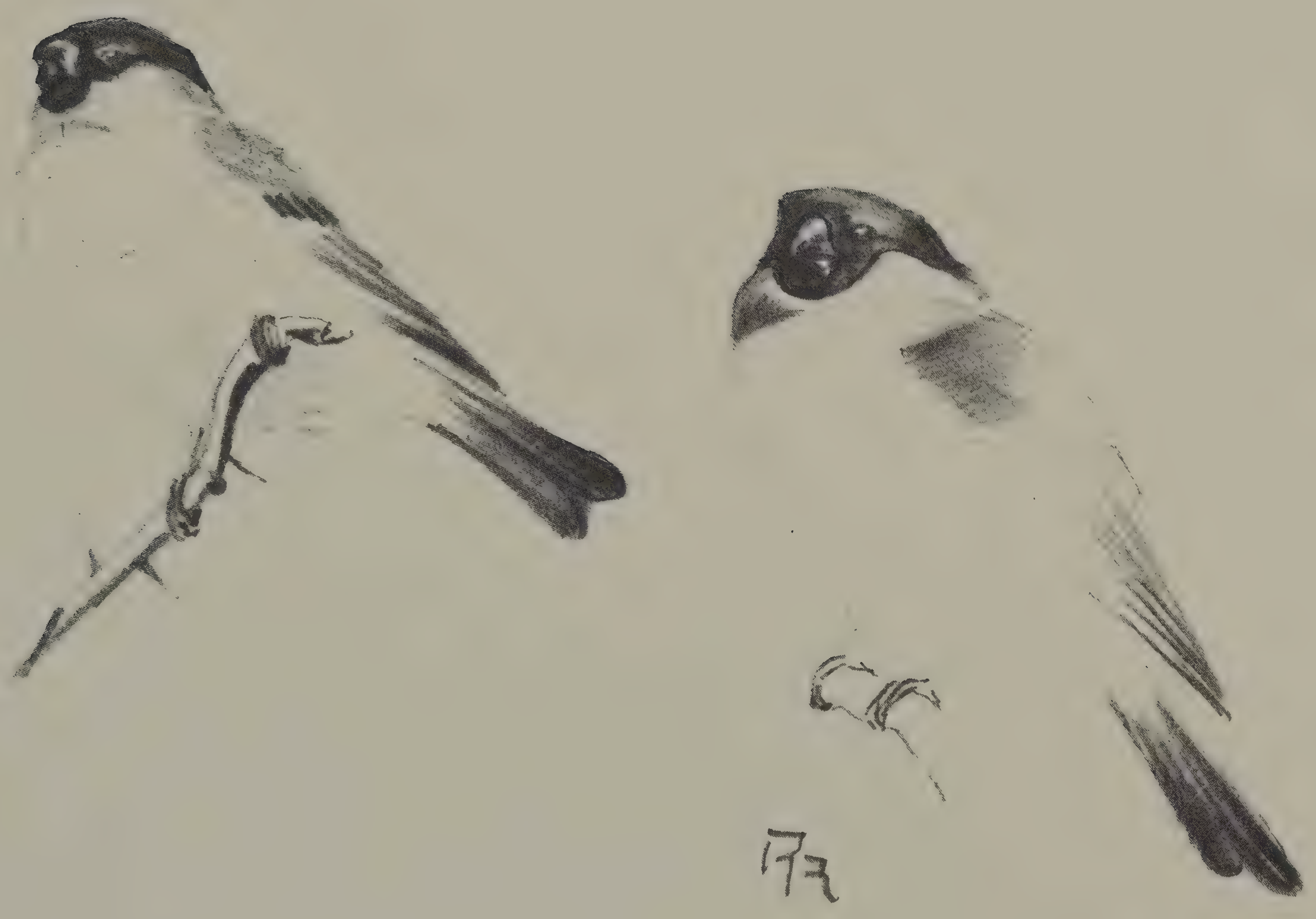
BULLFINCH

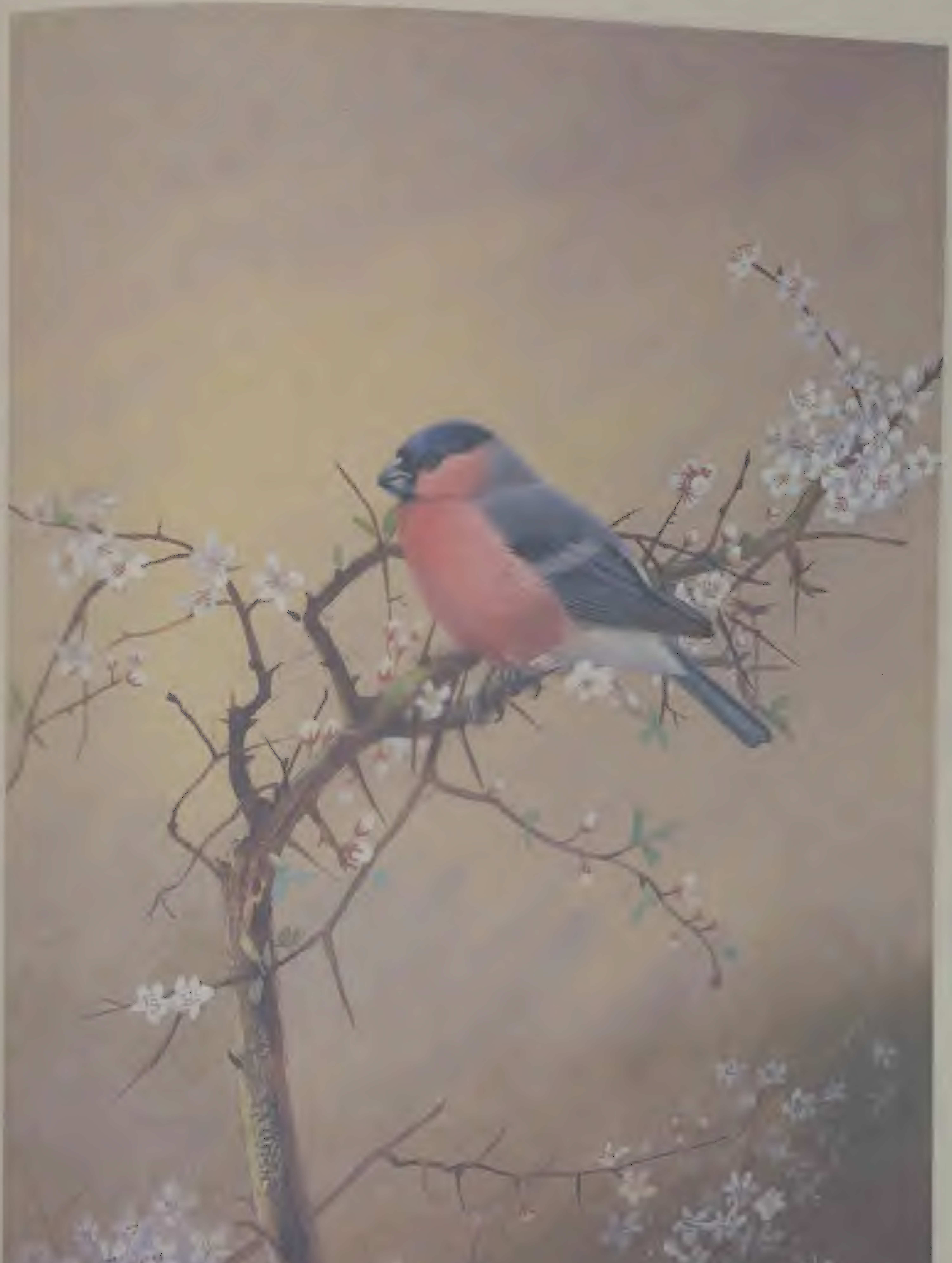
Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Blackthorn Winter (Bullfinch) 1960
Pyrrhula pyrrhula

If Bullfinches' habits were as attractive as their plumage there would be everything to recommend them, but unfortunately these beautiful birds will strip a branch of frail blossom in no time, working away towards the end of the twigs and nipping off buds and flowers. Cherry and apple blossom, forsythias, and almost all flowering shrubs may be attacked. I make a point of growing prunus trees that have good autumn colour; then at least one is left with something.

As can be seen from the plate, the cock birds are beautiful. Bullfinches will become tame, though very secretive in the wild state. These birds have been taught to pipe a tune in Germany.





BlackthornWinter (Bullfinch) 1960

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

If Bullfinches' habits were as attractive as their plumage there would be everything to recommend them, but unfortunately these beautiful birds will strip a branch of fruit blossom in no time, working away towards the end of the twigs and nipping off buds and flowers. Cherry and apple blossom, forsythias, and almost all flowering shrubs may be attacked. I make a point of growing prunus trees that have good autumn colour, then at least one is left with something.

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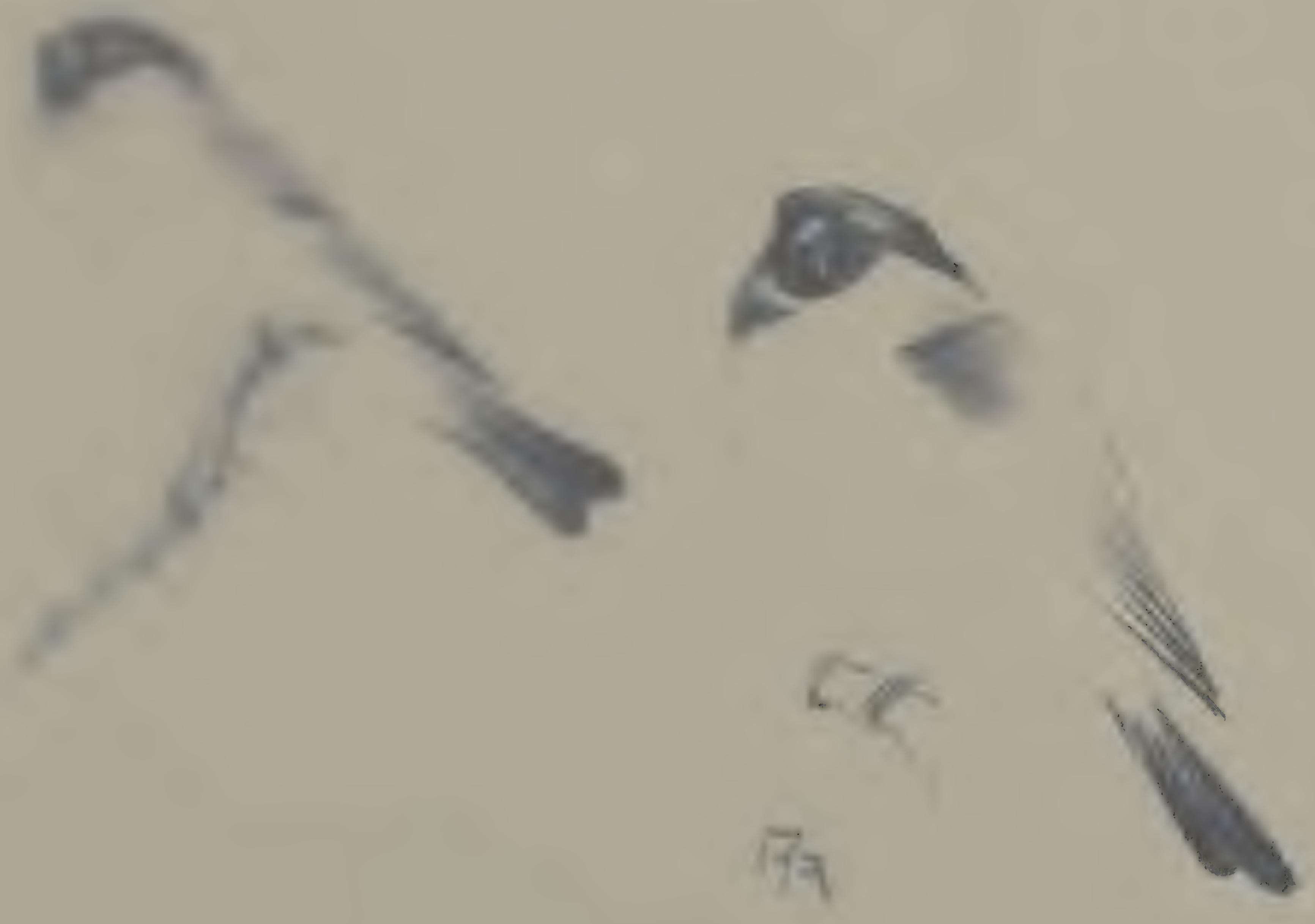

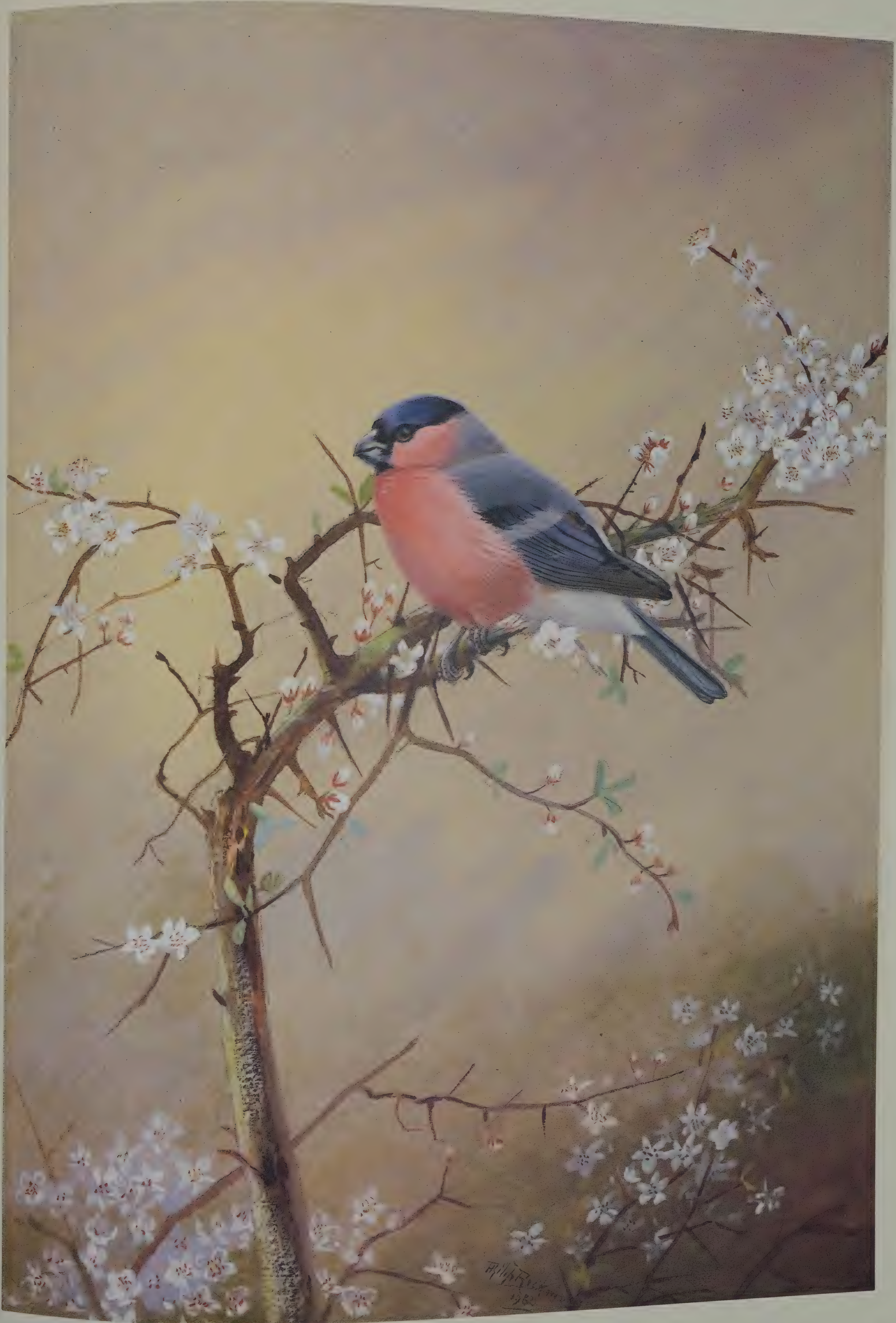

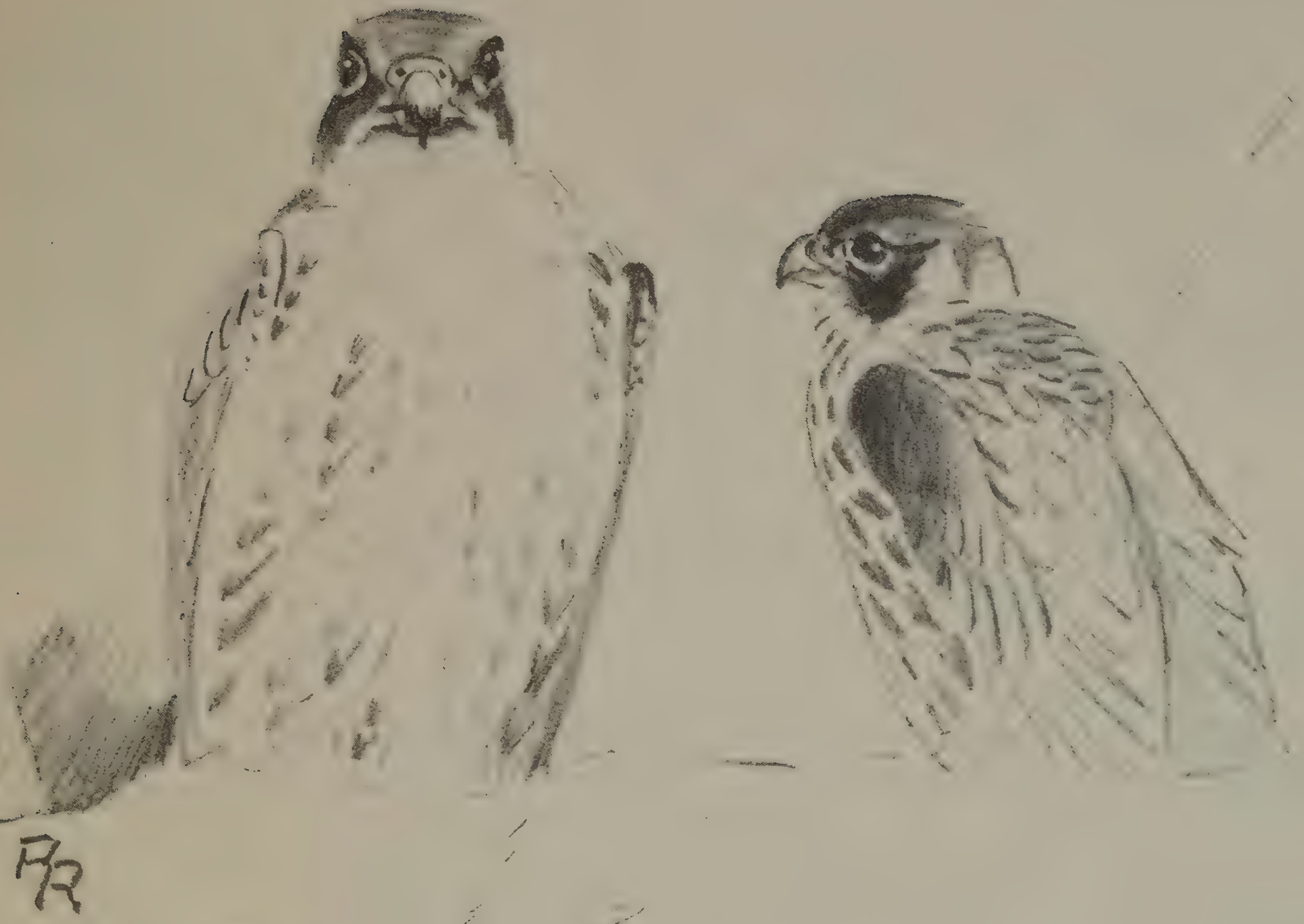
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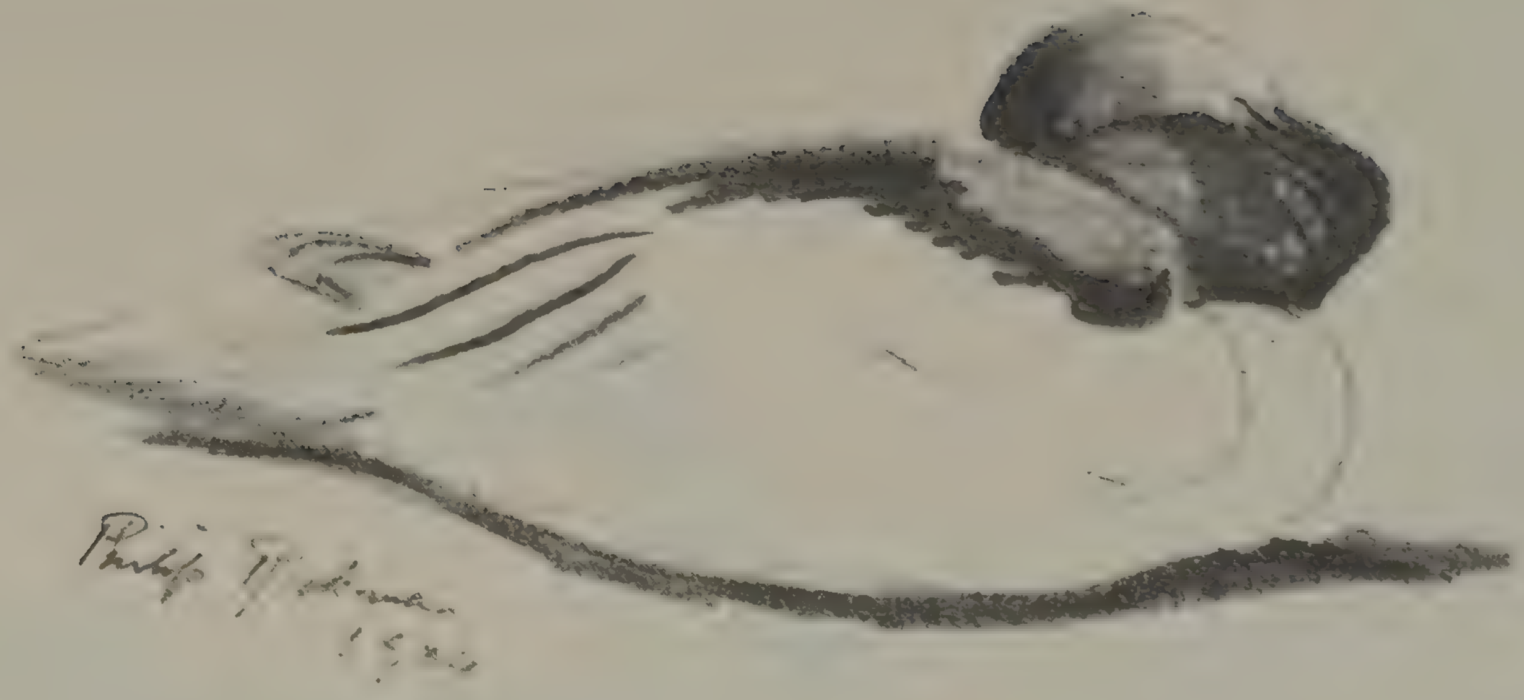
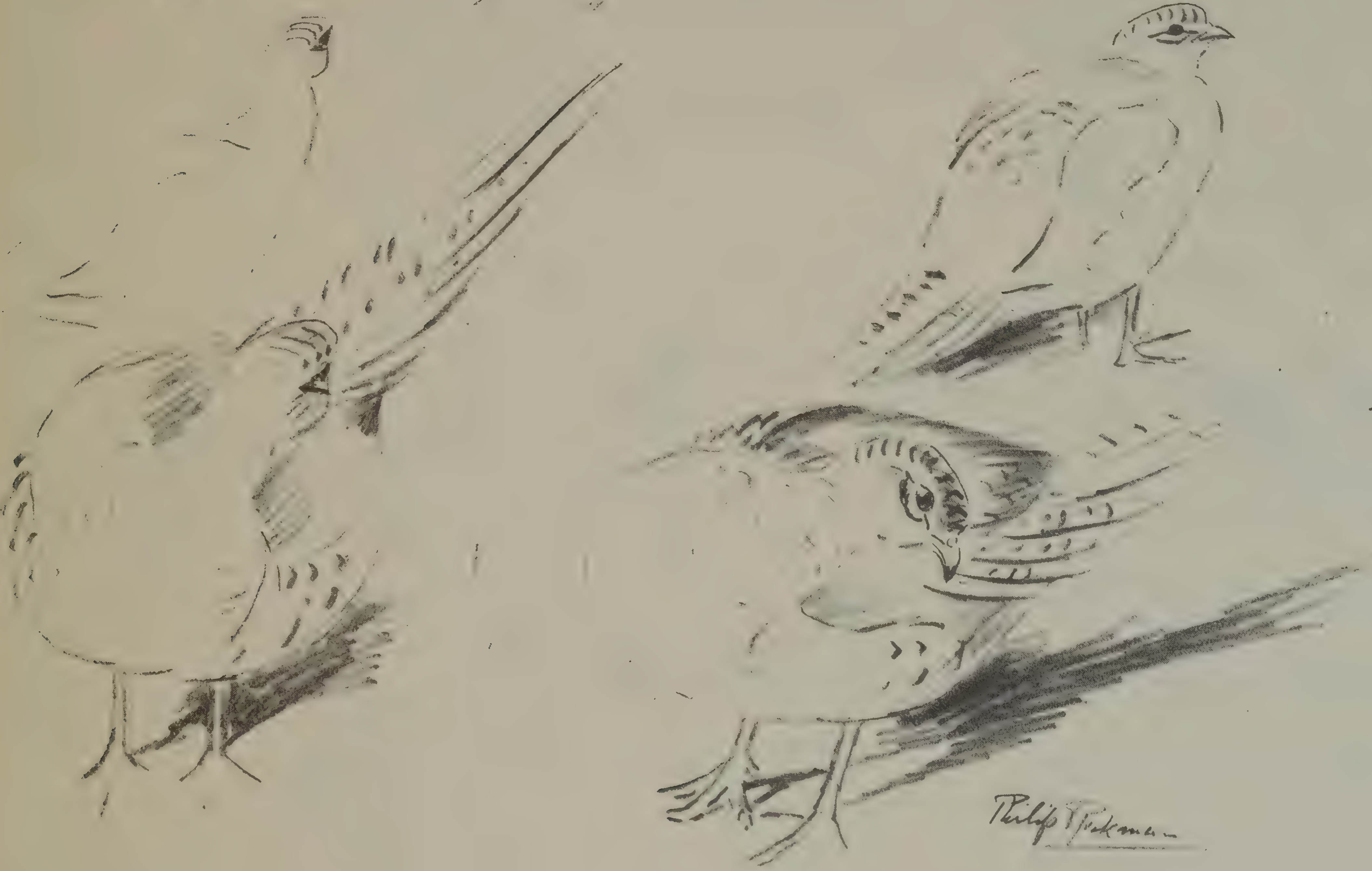
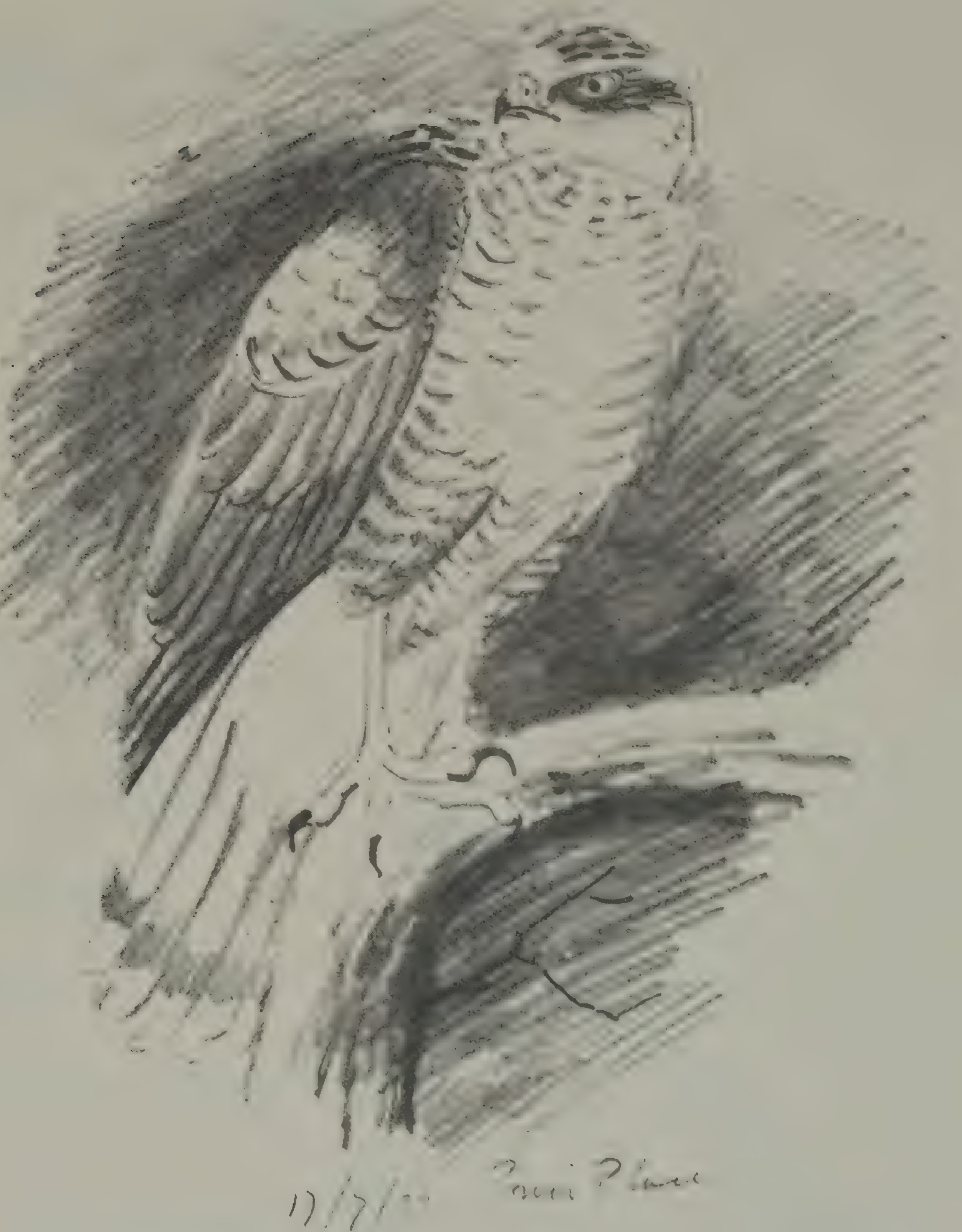
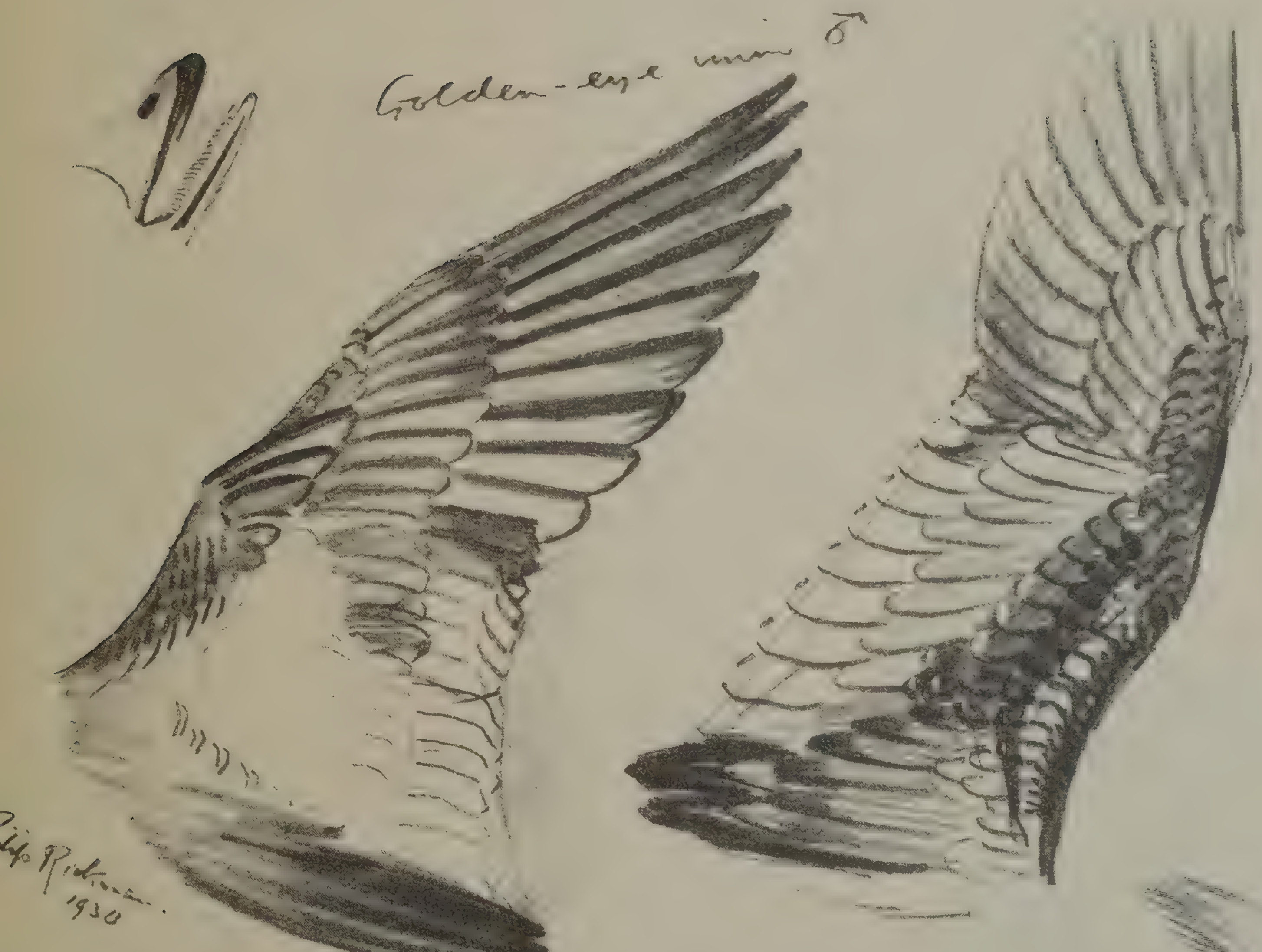
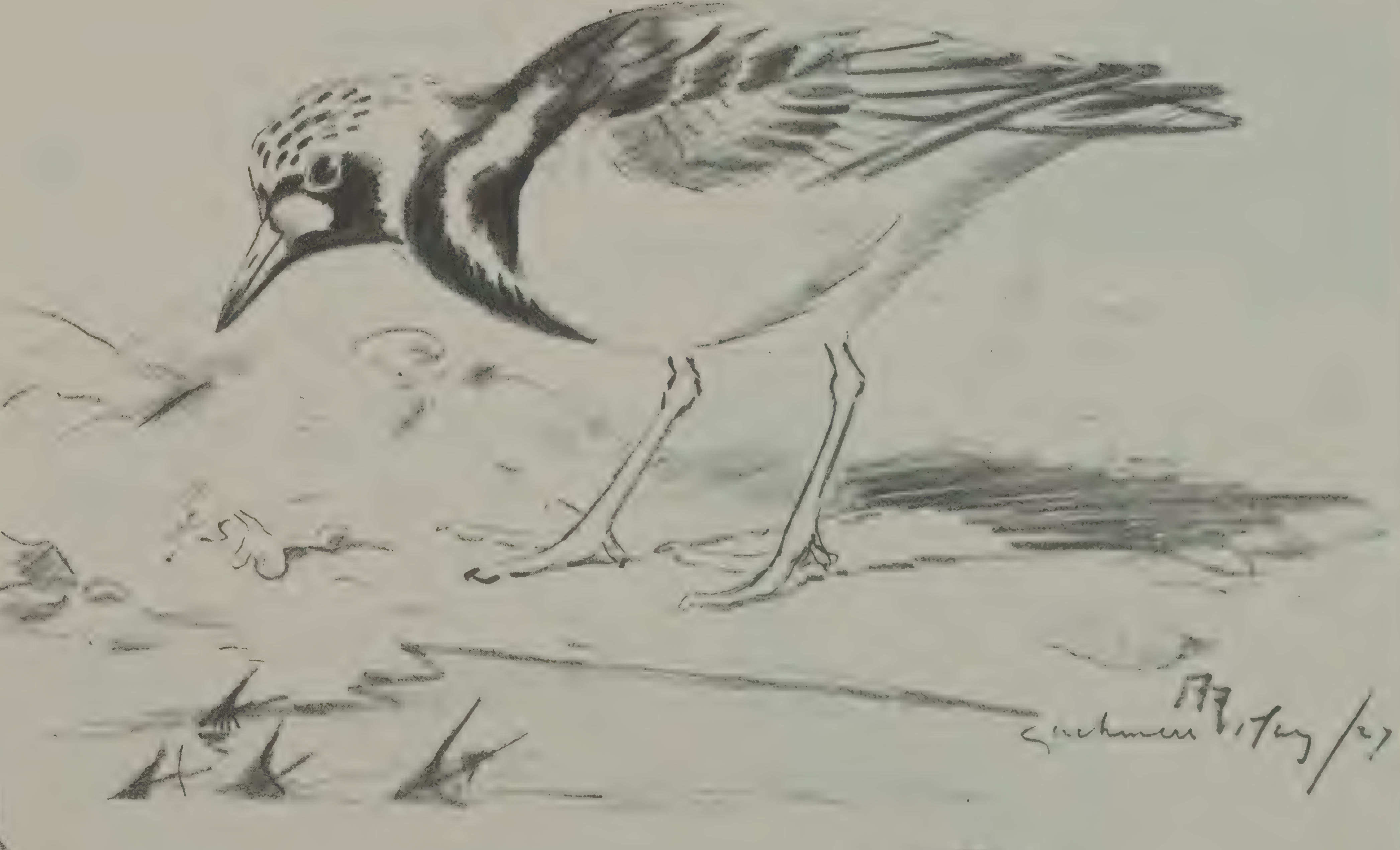

Philip Rickman 1930


Philip Rickman


17/7/[illegible] [illegible] Place


Golden-eye min ♂

Philip Rickman 1930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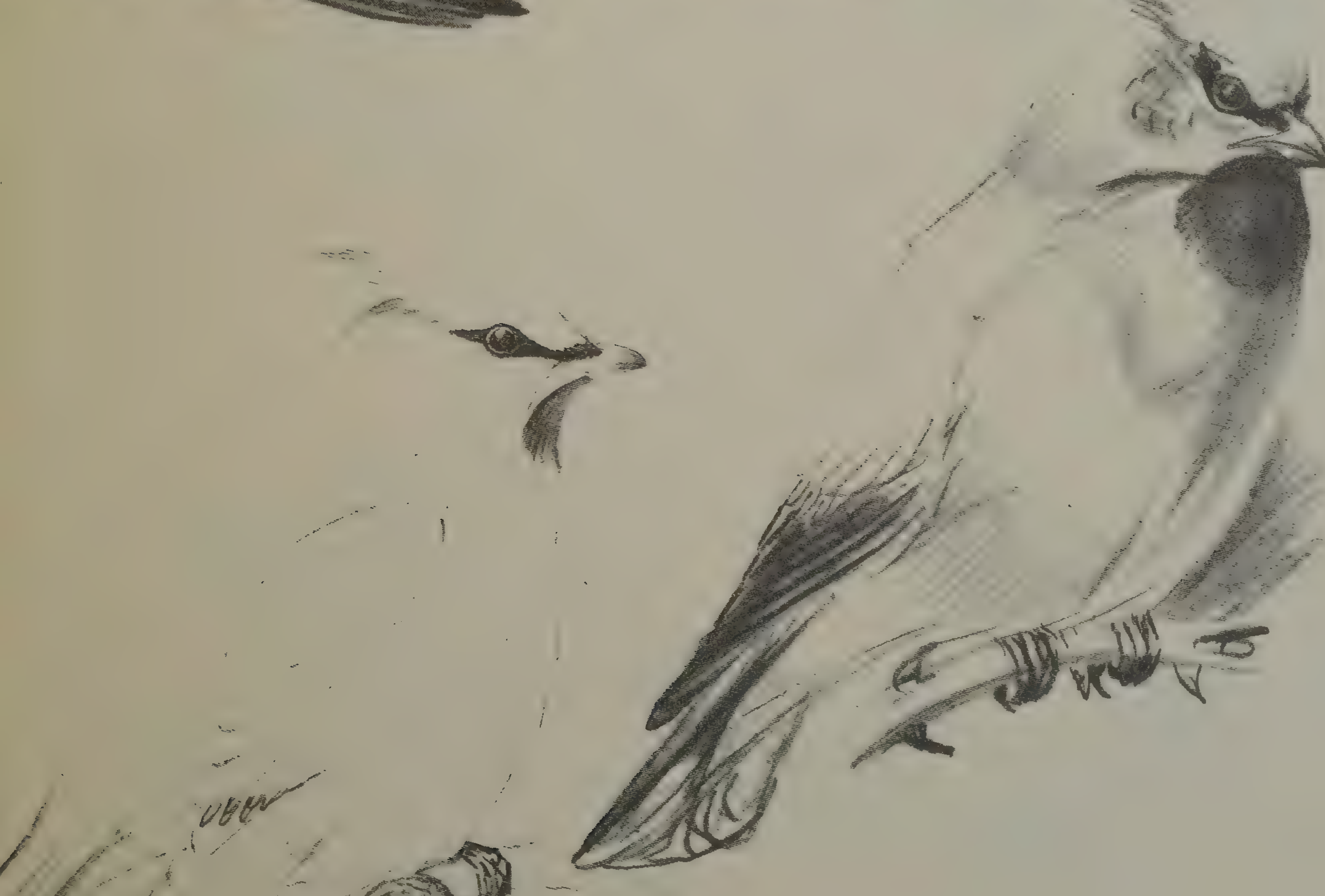
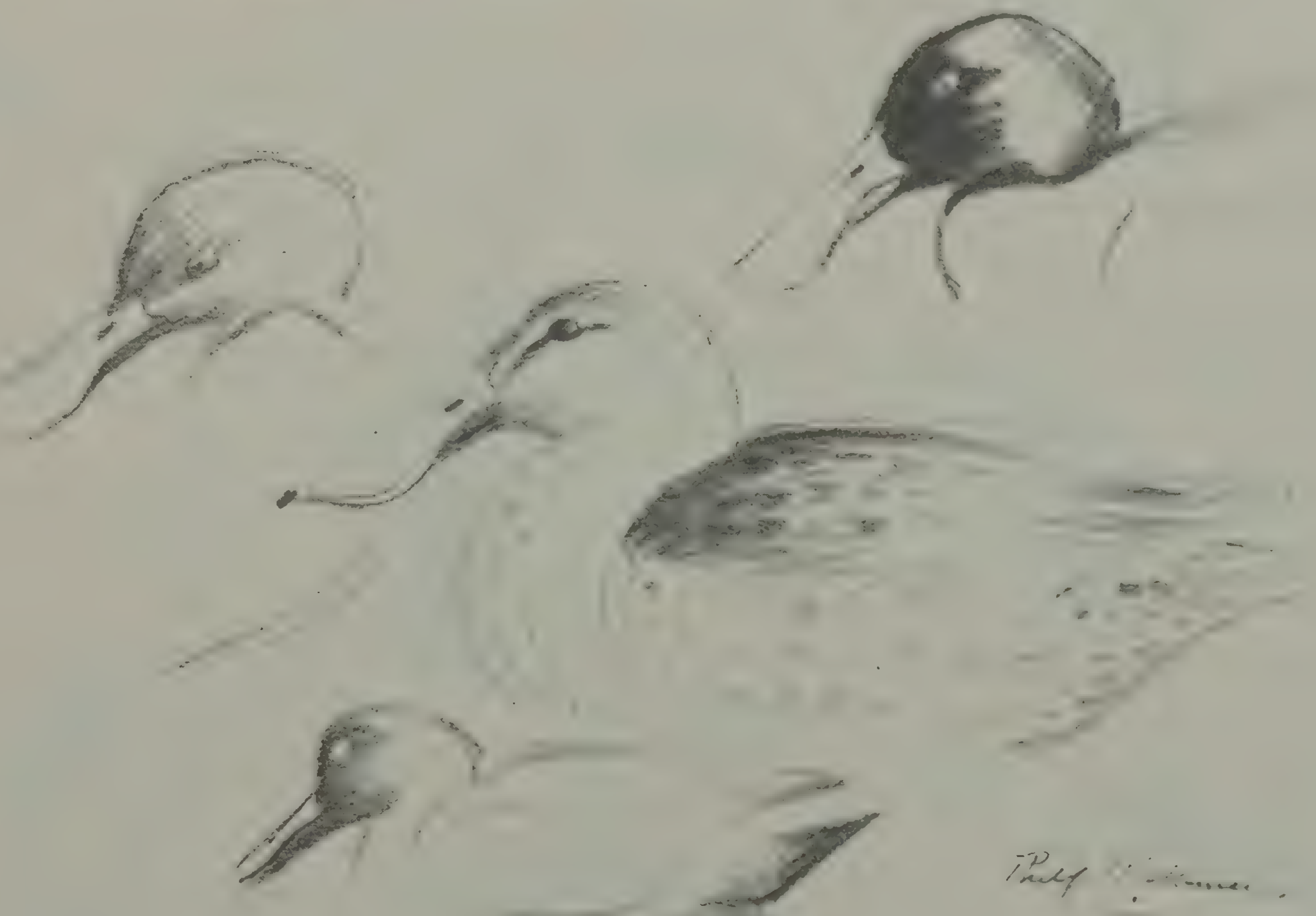
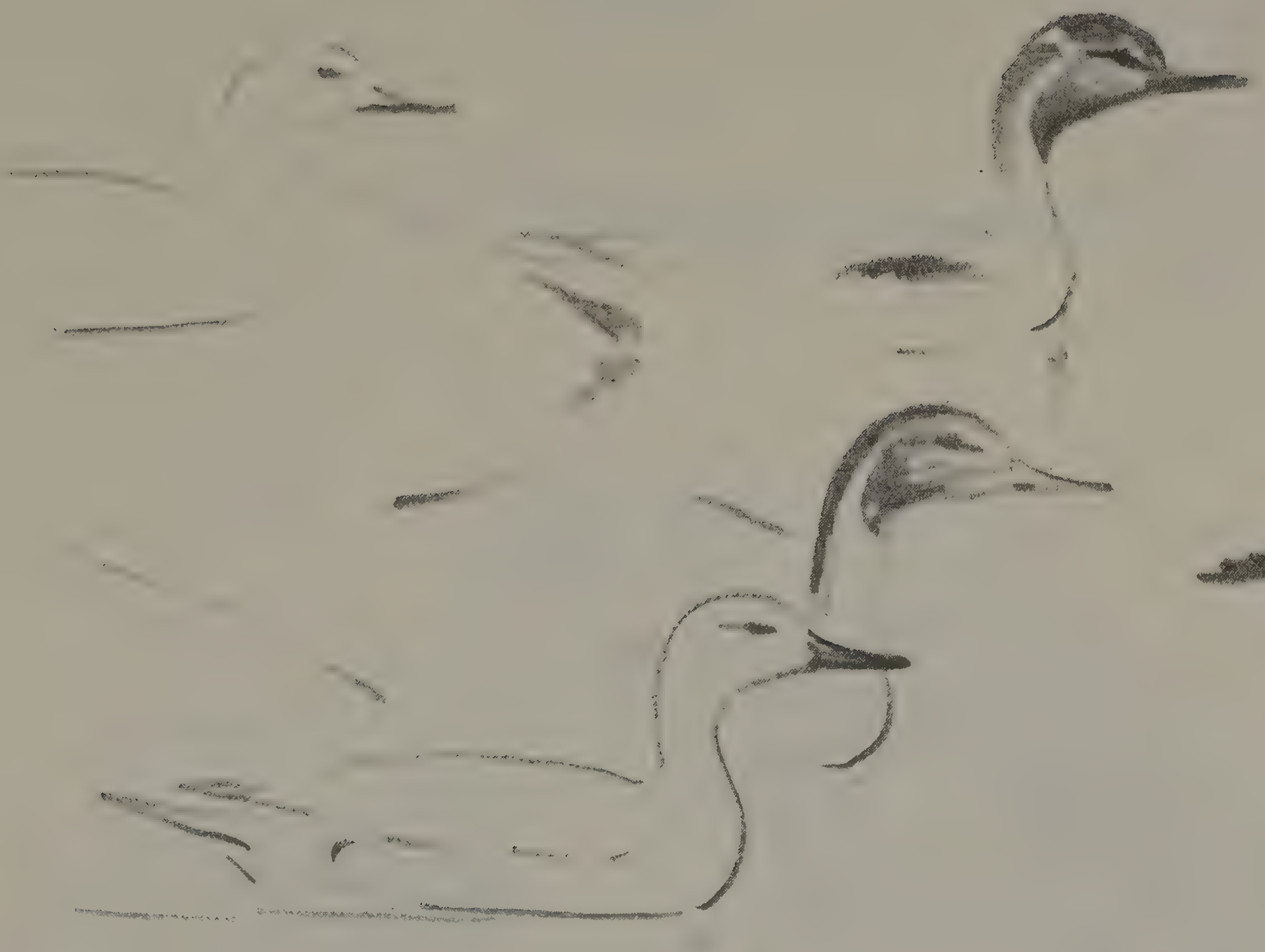
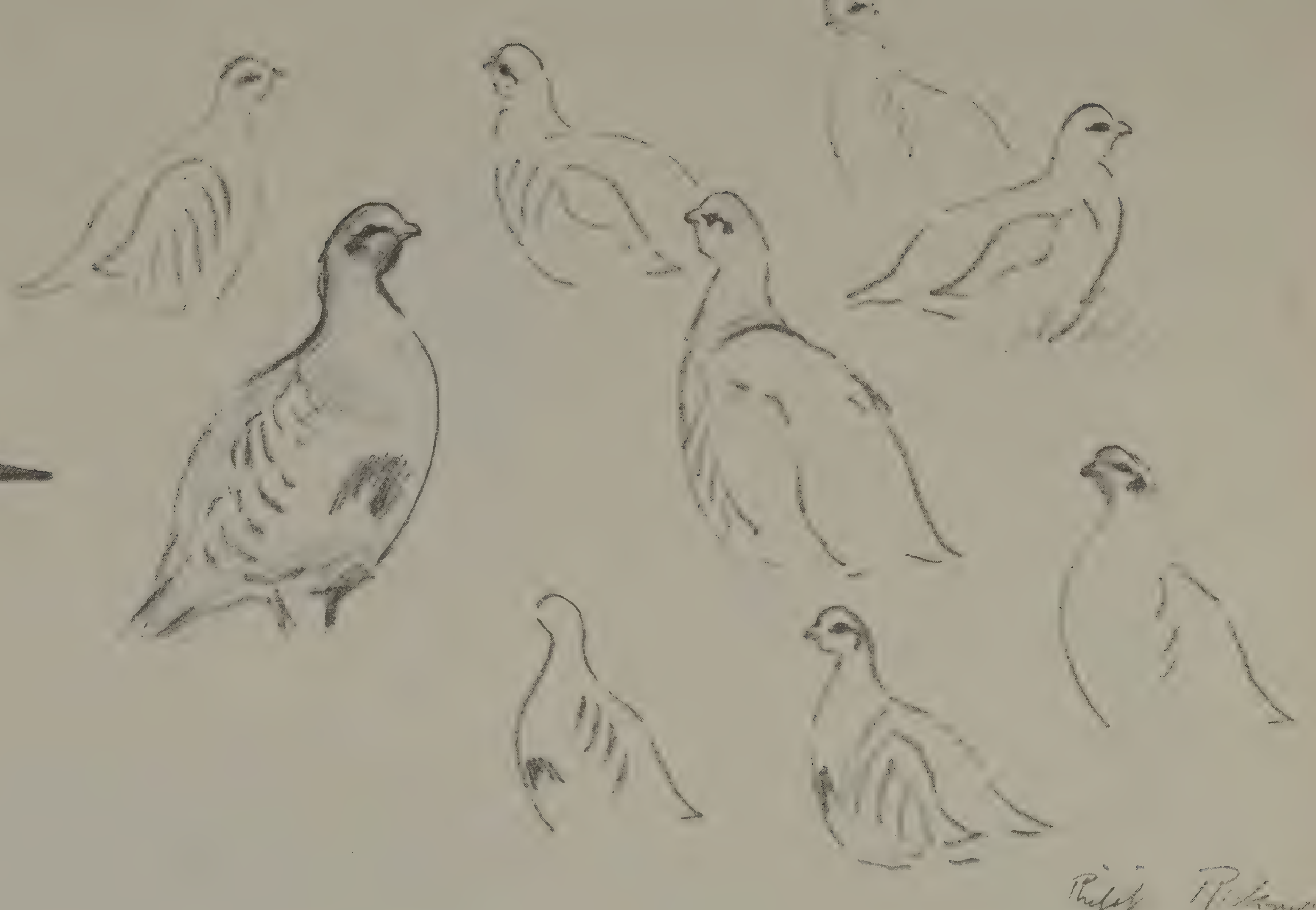



Philip Rickman

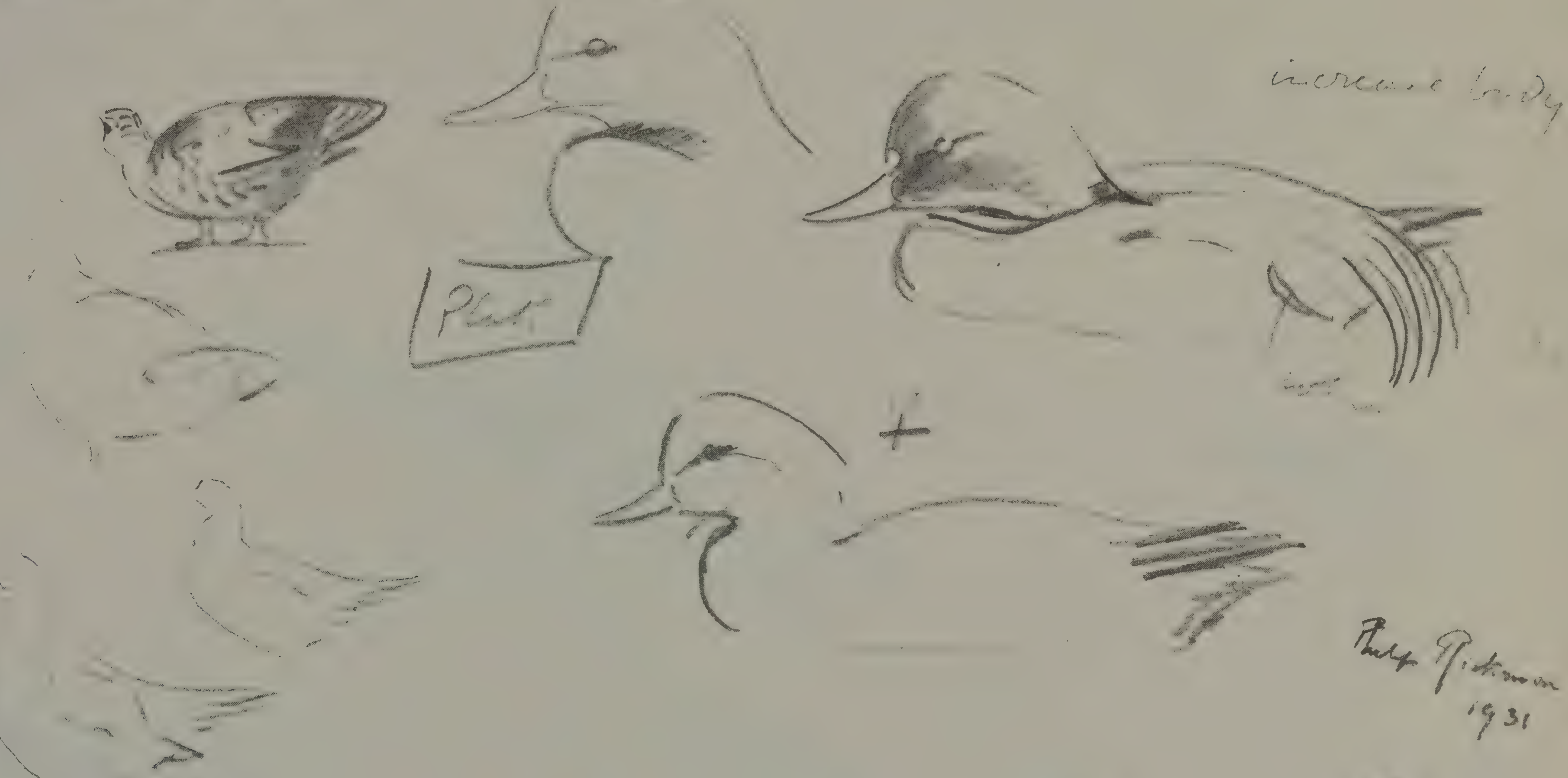




Philip Rickman
1927

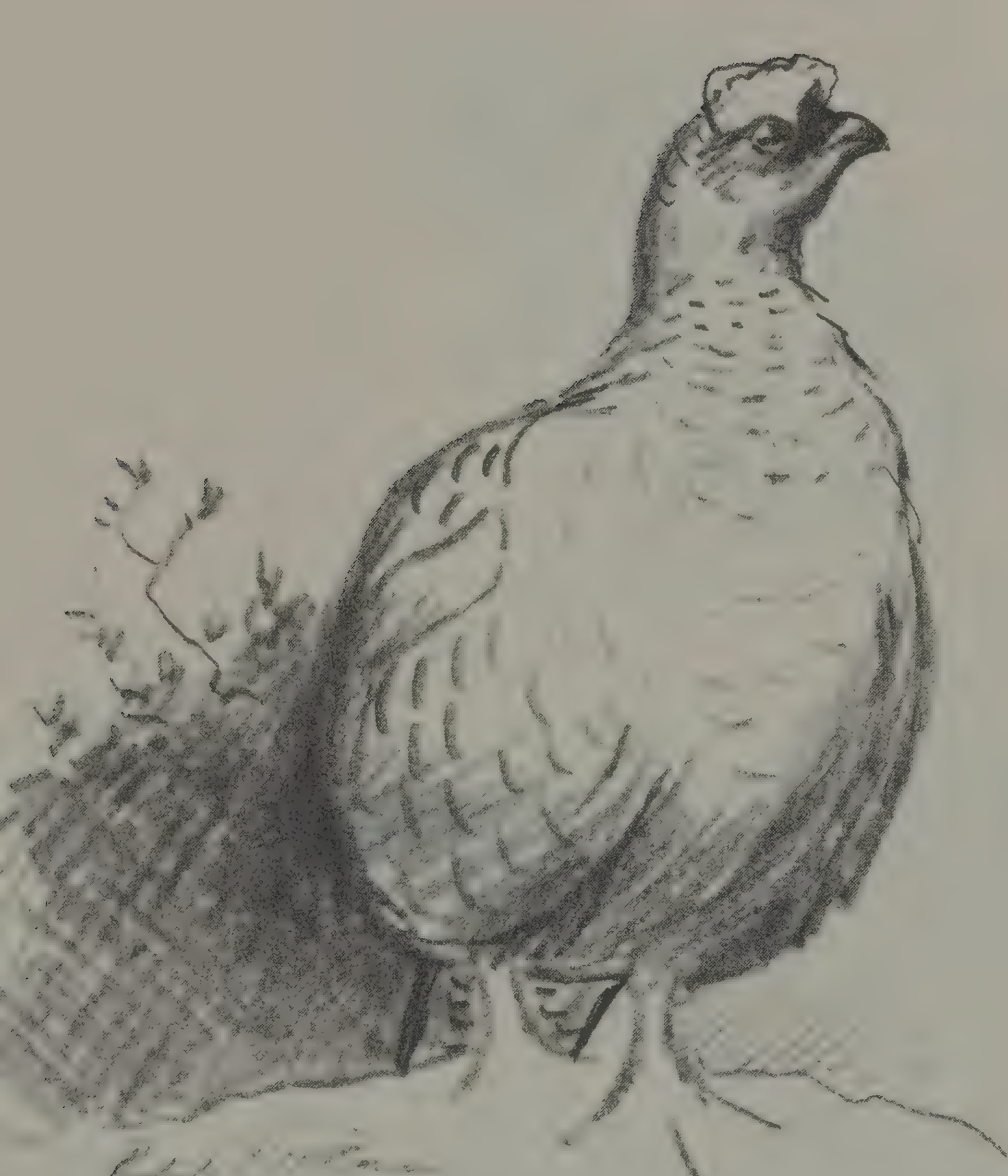
Pintail alarmed

Falcon



increase body

Philip Rickman
1931



Philip Rickman

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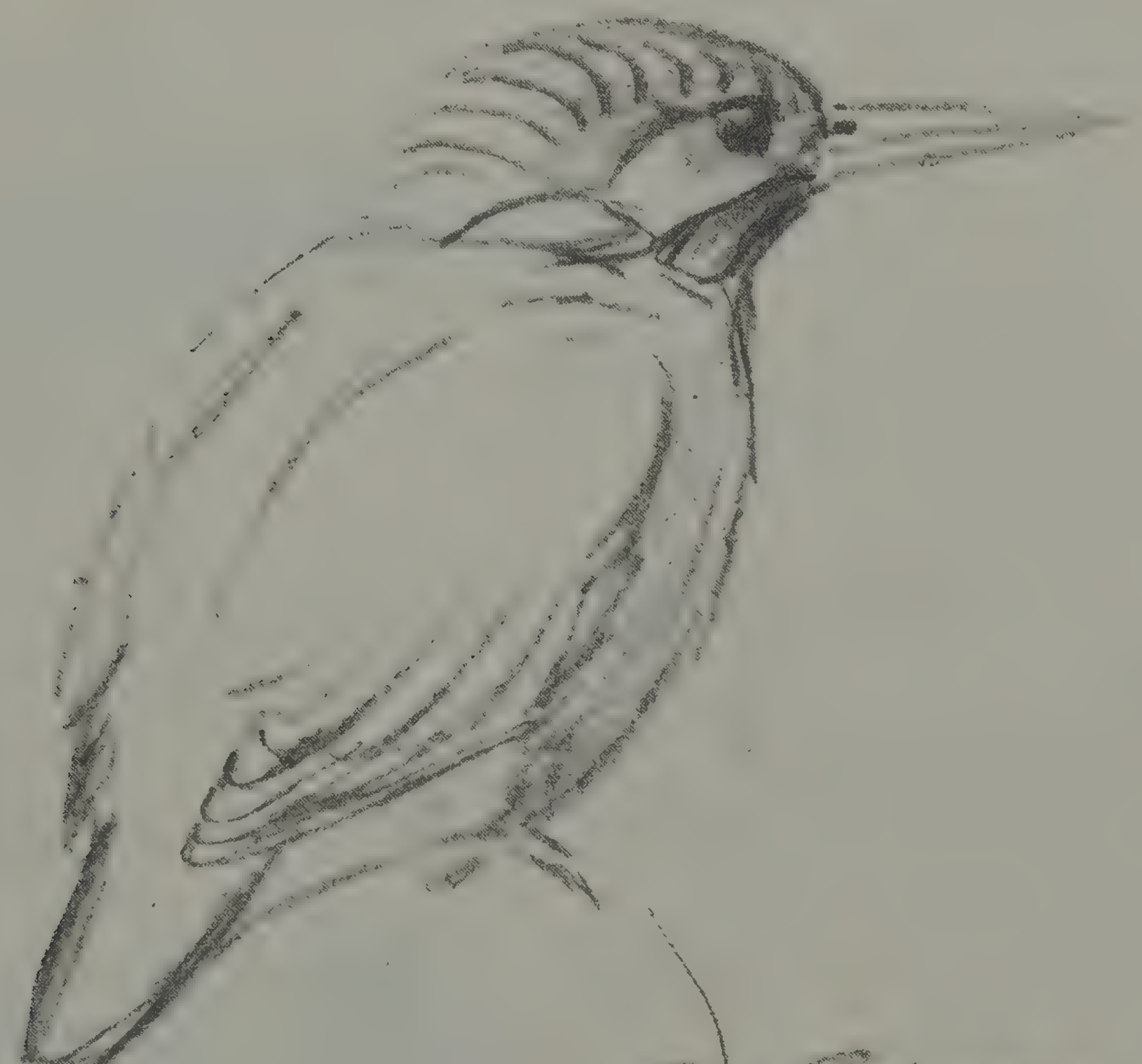
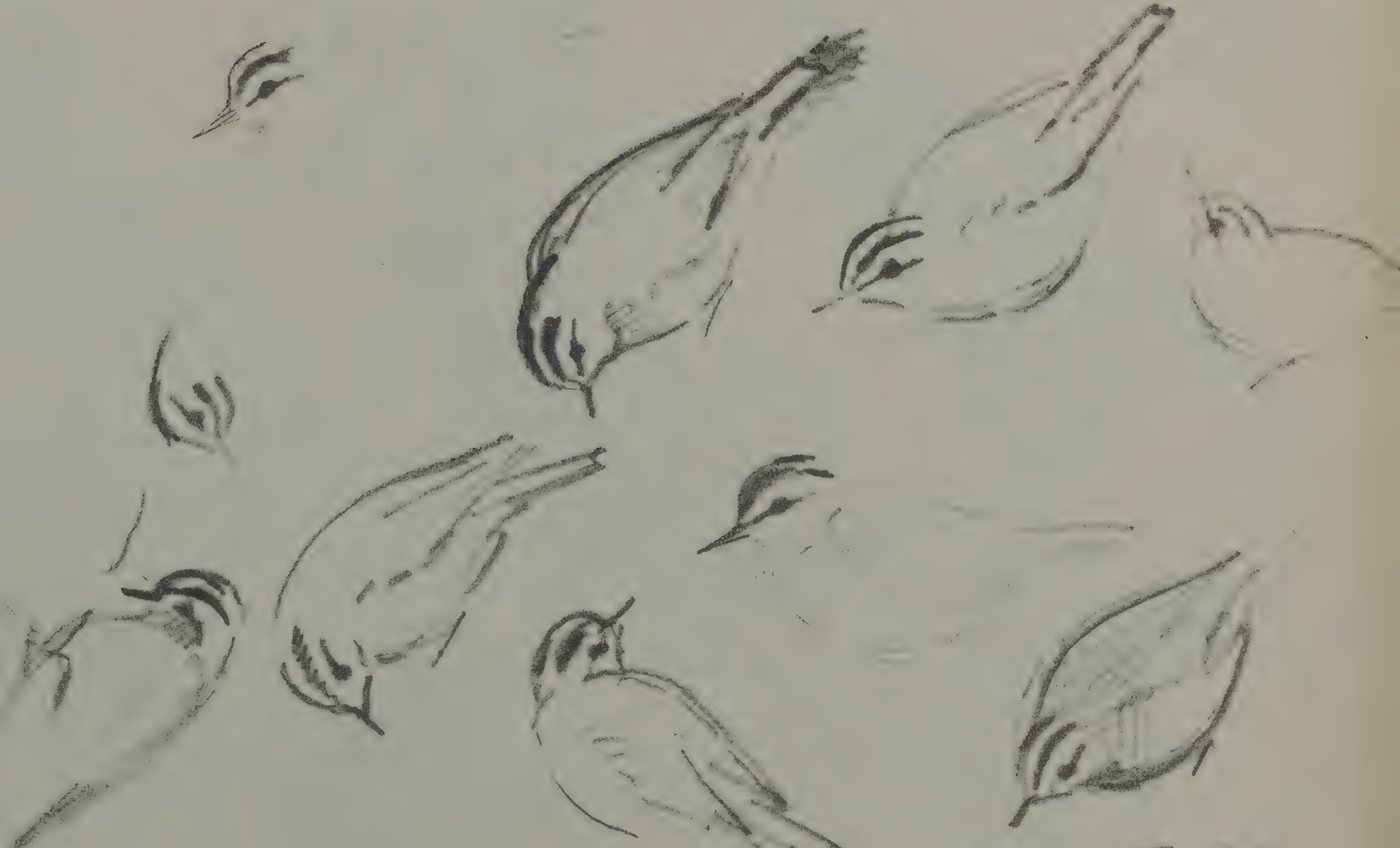
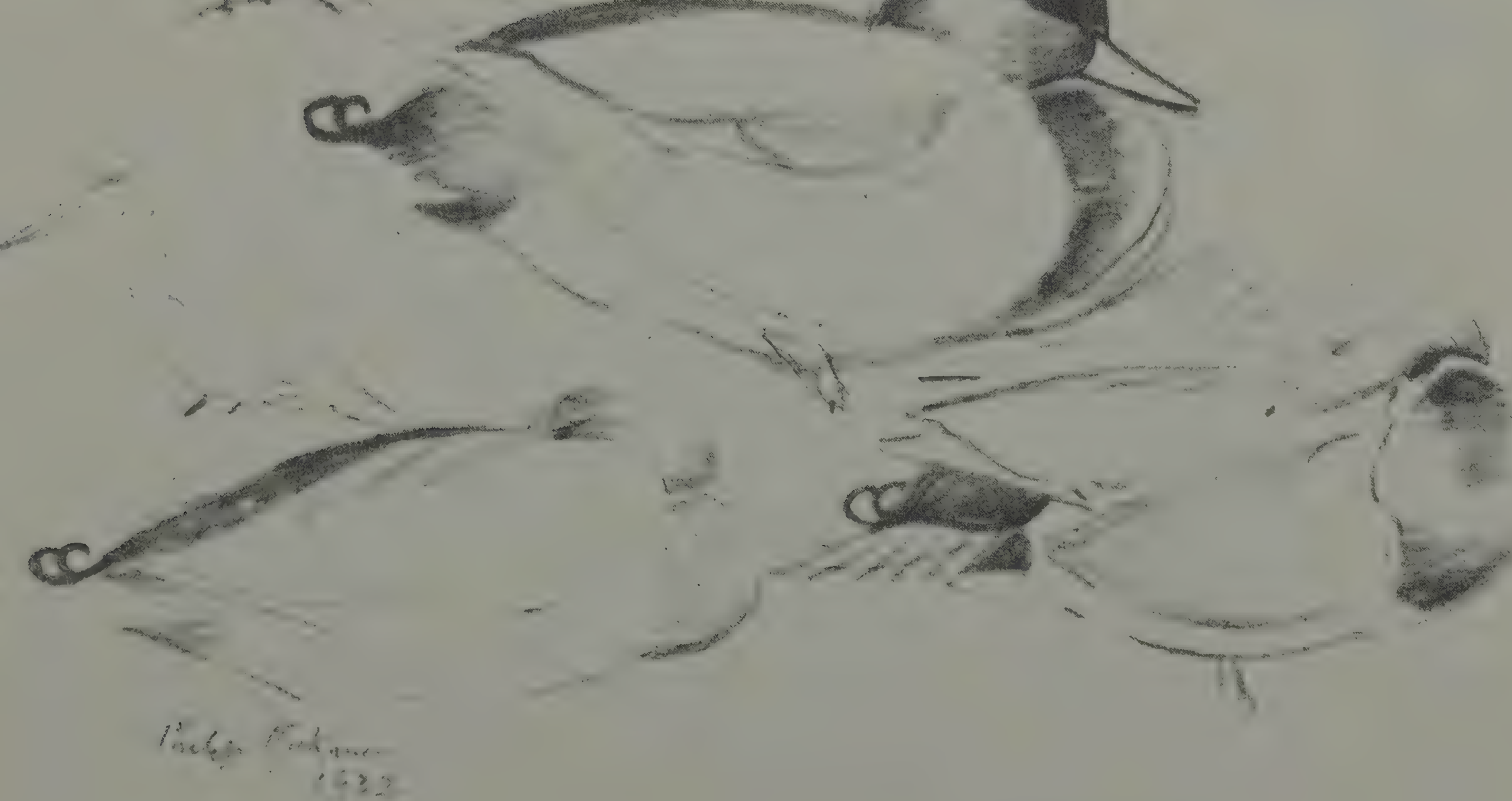


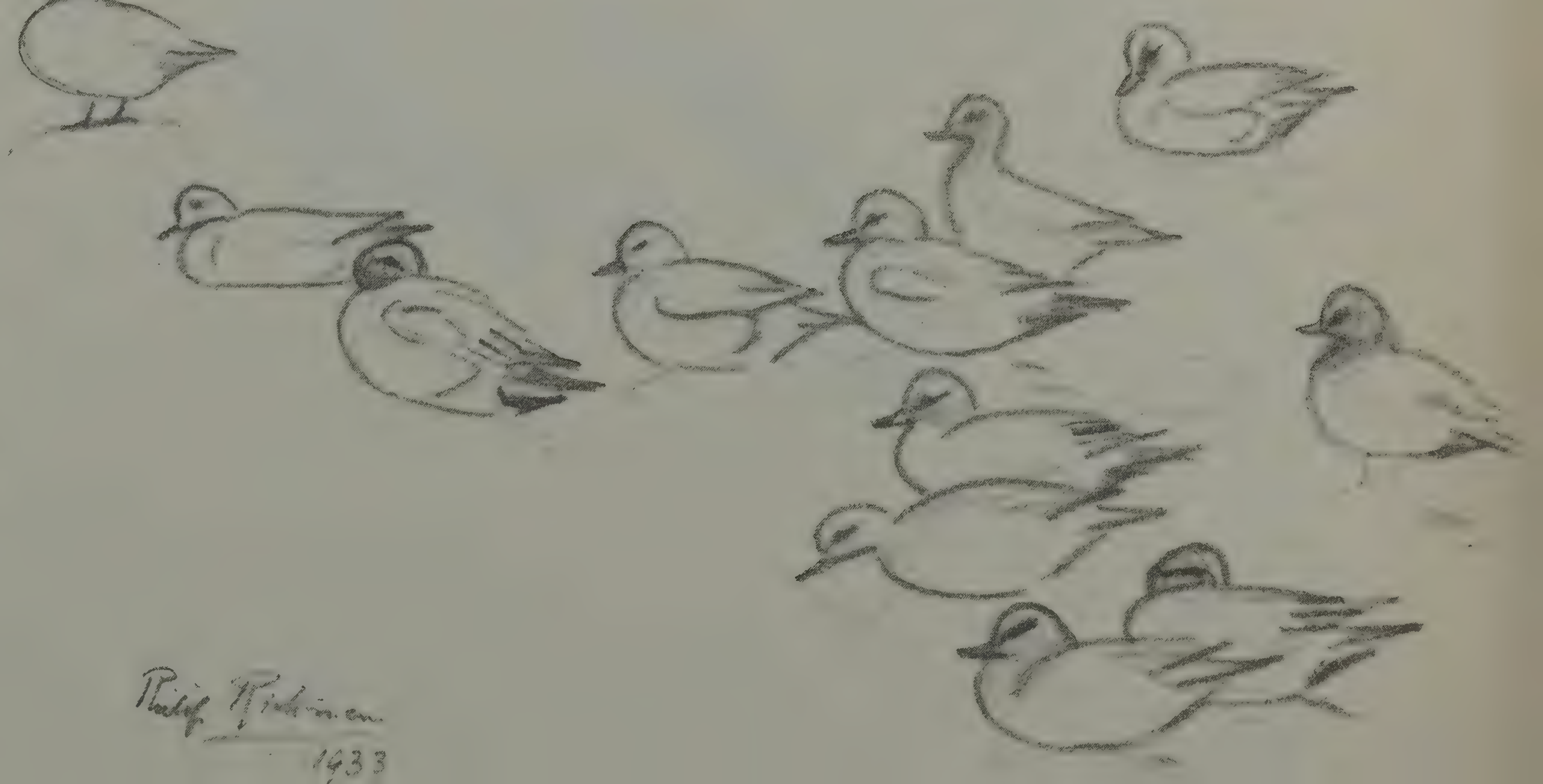
Philip Rickman
1970



Philip Rickman
1936



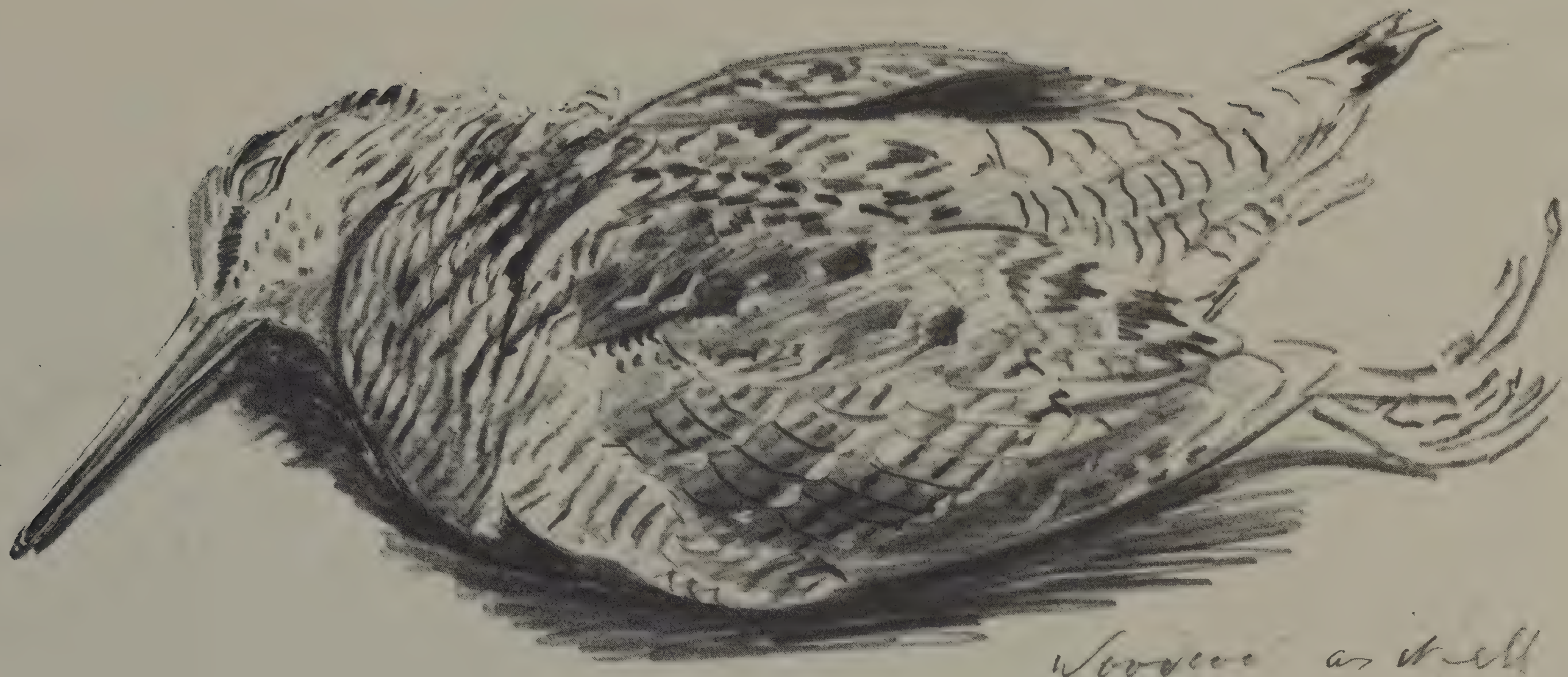
Philip Rickman
1933



Philip Rickman
1933

Books previously illustrated by Philip Rickman

BANNERMAN, D. A. (1953)	The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa (Two Volumes) illustrated by P. Rickman and others.
COLES, C. L. (1971)	The Complete Book of Game Conservation illustrated by P. Rickman and others.
HOLLOM, P. A. D. (1952)	The Popular Handbook of British Birds Illustrated by P. Rickman and others.
MACKIE, SIR P. (1929)	The Keeper's Book Illustrated by P. Rickman and others.
POLLARD, H. B. C. (1929)	Game Bird Rearing, Preservation and shooting
POLLARD, H. B. C. (1930)	The Gun Room Guide Illustrated by P. Rickman and Frank Wallace.
POLLARD, H. B. C. (1936)	Game Birds and Game Bird Shooting.
POLLARD, H. B. C. (1945)	British and American Game Birds.
RICKMAN, P. (1931)	A Bird-Painter's Sketch Book.
RICKMAN, P. (1938)	Bird Sketches and some Field Observations.
RICKMAN, P. (1949)	Sketches and Notes from a Bird Painters Journal.
SEIGNE, J. W. (1930)	A Birdwatcher's Notebook.
STEVEN, D. (1963)	Watching Wildlife Illustrated by P. Rickman and others.
THOMPSON, J. A.	The New Natural History (Three Volumes). Illustrated by P. Rickman and others.
WALPOLE-BOND, J. A. (1938)	A History of Sussex Birds (Three Volumes).



Woodcock as it fell

FR.